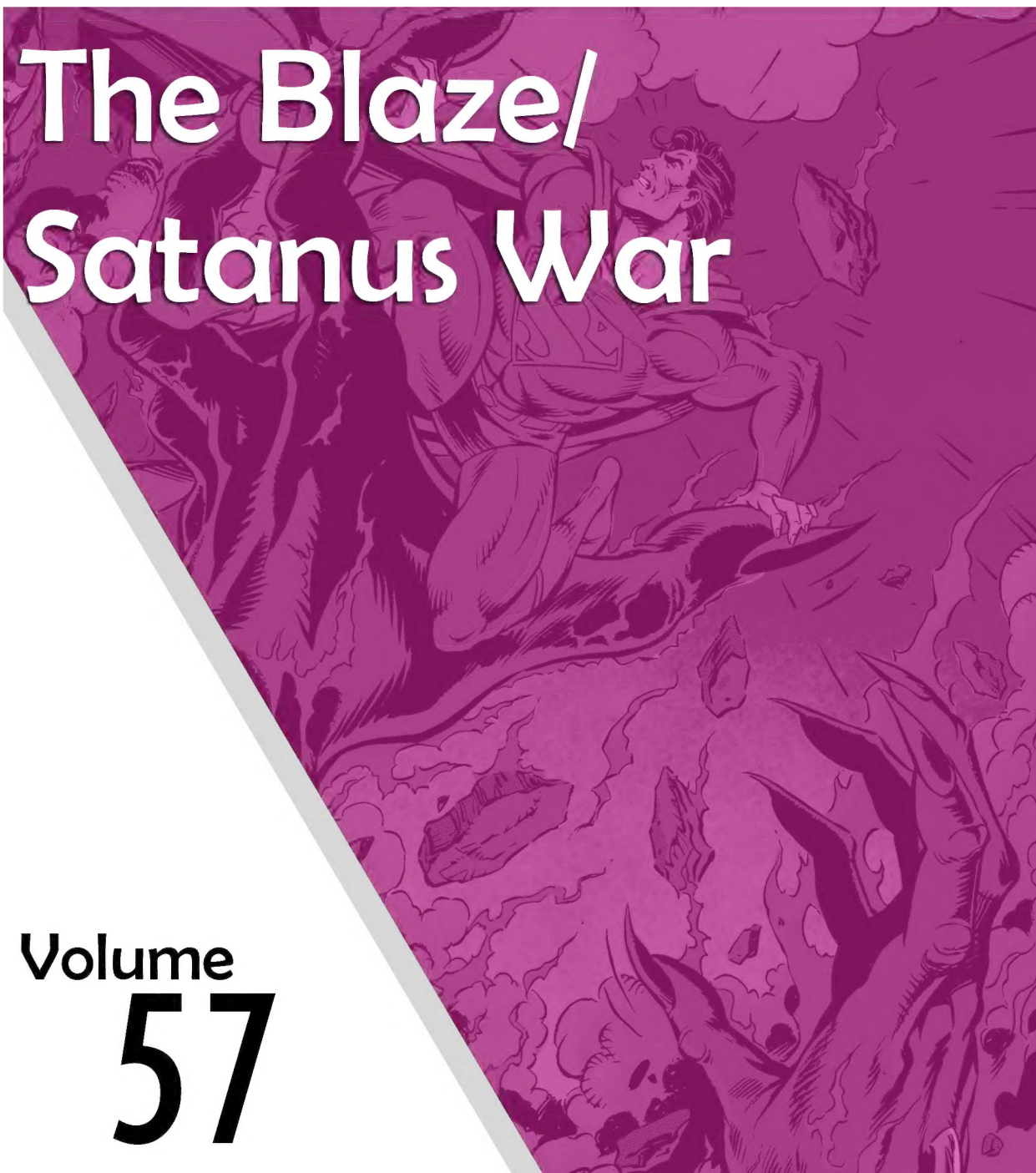
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

The Blaze/ Satanus War



Volume 57

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS The Blaze/Satanus War 57

SIBLING RIVALRY

THE HELLISH DOMAIN OF THE DEMON KNOWN AS BLAZE...

WITNESS THE PITIFUL SOUL OF SAMUEL FOSWELL...

...A MAN WHO CHOSE TO VEER FROM THE PATH MOST FREQUENTLY TRAVELLED...

...IN ORDER TO WALK FIRE WITH ME.

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SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

"THIS LONELY MORTAL DESPAIRED, STRIPPED OF HIS ONLY PASSION-- HIS CAREER AS A JOURNALIST.

"UNWILLING TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS FOR COMFORT...

"...HE WELCOMED THE COLD EMBRACE OF DEATH.

"WHAT HE GOT, HOWEVER, WAS A REPRIEVE, AMID THE ICY WINDS OF METROPOLIS HARBOR.

"THINKING ME AN ANGEL, HE PLEDGED HIS ETERNAL SOUL, IN EXCHANGE FOR A PROMISE OF EARTHLY BLISS.

"THE FOOL NOW WALKS IN DARKNESS..."

...ON A PATH DEVISED BY ME!

A SIMPLE WHISPER IN SUPERMAN'S EAR AFFORDED FOSWELL A SAVIOR.

"A PLANTED IMPULSE SIMILARLY PUT HIM AT THE SITE OF A NEWSWORTHY EVENT...

"...THE DESTRUCTION OF A MISCREANT VAMPIRE, WHO WAS DEPRIVING MY DOMAIN OF HUMAN SOULS!"

"MOST DELICIOUS OF ALL WAS THE MANIPULATION OF AN EMPLOYER, TO PUT SAM FOSWELL'S WRITING TALENTS TO USE."

ALL THE PLAYERS ARE IN PLACE...

"...AND THE GAME HAS BEGUN."

I JUST KNOW COLLIN THORNTON'S GOING TO BE SO IMPRESSED WITH MY ACCOUNT OF THE VAMPIRE'S DEMISE...

...THAT HE'LL HOLD TO HIS PROMISE TO HIRE ME ON AS NEWSTIME'S MANAGING EDITOR.'*

*SEE SUPERMAN #70, STILL ON SALE!

NEWSTIM

THAT WILL SHOW THOSE BACKSTABBERS AT THE DAILY PLANET, WHO FIRED ME!

HEY-- DID THE LIGHTS JUST DIM?

MY COMPUTER SCREEN JUST WENT BLANK!

SAMUEL FOSWELL TO SEE COLLIN THORNTON, PLEASE.

GO RIGHT UP-- HE'S EXPECTING YOU.

I'D WONDERED WHETHER MY VISION OF THE ANGEL WHO SAVED ME WAS REAL OR NOT.

LANDING THIS JOB WOULD MAKE ME A BELIEVER!

HEY, CHUCK-- ARE YOU SITTING DOWN? RUMOR HAS IT SAM FOSWELL'S ABOUT TO BE HIRED BY THORNTON!

HE'S GOING TO WORK HERE?

MR. THORNTON?

NOK NOK

WHAT IN THE WORLD POSSESSED COLLIN TO HIRE SOMEONE IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES?

THORNTON

USHER

MR. THORNTON? YOUR SECRETARY TOLD ME TO COME IN.

YES, YES--PLEASE DO.

I, UH, *WROTE* UP AN ACCOUNT OF THAT *INCIDENT* WE WERE *BOTH* WITNESS TO...

YES, WELL, I'D LIKE TO FIRST WELCOME YOU TO THE *NEWSTIME* FAMILY, MISTER FOSWELL.

THANK YOU--AND PLEASE CALL ME *SAM*.

VERY WELL, SAAAAAM.

OOOH!

KER-ACKLE

MUST BE *STATIC* ELECTRICITY.

HMM, *MUST* BE.

JUST *SLIDE* IT OVER TO ME, SAM. WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE *SHOCKS* NOW, DO WE?

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW *MUCH* I APPRECIATE THIS, MR. THORNTON.

SO--LET'S SEE THAT *EYEWITNESS* ACCOUNT YOU WROTE!

THIS IS QUITE GOOD, SAM.

I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH OUR ART DEPARTMENT ON AN ILLUSTRATION TO GO WITH THIS.

YOU--YOU MEAN THE JOB IS MINE?

UH-HUH.

YESTERDAY I WAS AT THE END OF MY ROPE, BUT TODAY I'M WALKING ON AIR!

"YESIREE, IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME TRULY BELIEVE IN ANGELS!"

344 CLINTON

"LAST NIGHT'S TUSSLE WITH THAT VAMPIRE TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME..."

...BUT I HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO TODAY TO LET IT SLOW ME--

OH, 'MORNING, ANDREA!

Planet

HULLO, MR. KENT. OH, DON'T MIND MY FACE--

--I WAS, UM-- MUGGED. YES, MUGGED--IN THE PARK.

I-I'M SO SORRY, ANDREA...

SLAM!

...IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO--?

THAT'S TWICE NOW.

I'M NOT AROUND HERE ENOUGH TO REALLY GET TO KNOW MY NEIGHBORS BEYOND SAYING "HI" IN THE HALLWAY...

...AND I CERTAINLY CAN'T USE MY POWERS TO SPY ON THEM.

STILL... I KNOW ANDREA WASN'T TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH BACK THERE.

WHERE IN BLAZES IS OLSEN? IT'S PAST NINE AND I'VE GOT AN ASSIGNMENT FOR HIM!

HE'S TAKEN A SICK DAY, MR. WHITE!

JIMMY'S STILL RECOVERING FROM THE INJURIES HE GOT FIGHTING THAT-- VAMPIRE!

SORRY, BUT THE THOUGHT OF REAL-LIFE "DRACULAS" WALKING AROUND IS ALMOST TOO WEIRD, MR. WHITE.

LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND US, RONALD--

--WE'VE GOT FLYING MEN AND WOMEN, AS WELL AS BEINGS FROM OTHER WORLDS TRAIPSING AROUND ALL OF OUR MAJOR CITIES!

WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, BELIEVING IN VAMPIRES ISN'T MUCH OF A STRETCH, I GUESS.

MY SISTER WAS VICTIMIZED BY ONE OF THOSE BLOODSUCKERS, MR. TROUPE, AND THAT MADE ME A BELIEVER!

GOOD TO HEAR LUCY'S RECOVERED, LOIS.

MR. KENT'S STORY SAYS AFTER THE CREATURE WAS DESTROYED, ALL THE VICTIMS RECOVERED!

PHYSICALLY, YES.

Daily Planet

MYSTERY ILLNESSES AT METRO-GENERAL SOLVED

MORNING, ALL.

YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE GOSSIP I HEARD FROM SHORTELL ON THE NEWS DESK.

LET ME GUESS, CLARK. HE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH CAT GRANT?

HE WISHES!

COLLIN THORNTON JUST HIRED SAM FOSWELL AS NEWSTIME'S MANAGING EDITOR!

YOU'RE KIDDING!

THAT SHMOE NEARLY RAN THE 'PLANET INTO THE GROUND. MAN... HE SURE *LANDED* ON HIS *FEET*!

OUCH! NICK'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT A BAD PUN *THAT* WAS!

IT'S AMAZING TO THINK THAT *YESTERDAY* I SAVED FOS FROM A SUICIDE ATTEMPT, AND ALREADY HIS LIFE'S *TURNED AROUND*.

I HOPE HE DOES *WELL* THERE.

SO DO I-- SAM FOSWELL *DESERVES* IT.

HE *TAUGHT* ME A LOT WHEN I WORKED FOR HIM ON THE *NATIONAL DESK*.

I'M JUST GLAD HE'S NOT *HERE* ANYMORE.

!

I DON'T *KNOW* THIS FOSWELL, BUT IT REALLY *TORQUES* ME THAT *THORNTON* LIED TO ME WHEN HE LET *ME* GO!

THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP *ME* ON, BUT THEY'VE GOT ENOUGH TO PAY FOR ANOTHER *EXECUTIVE*!

WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD, KID!

YEAH, YEAH, THE WORLD'S *UNFAIR*, BUT IF IT *WASN'T*, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO WRITE ABOUT!

BACK TO IT, FOLKS.

OH, MR. KENT-- JIMMY *IS* OUT SICK, BUT HE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

THANKS, RON.

THIS SAYS HE'S MAKING A *PERSONAL APPEARANCE* AT *TITANO'S PIZZA* ON FIFTY-FOURTH STREET!

WHAT KIND OF APPEARANCE COULD HE MAKE IN A PIZZA PARLOR?

"LET'S STOP BY THERE ON OUR LUNCH-BREAK."

TITANO Pizza

IN PERSON!!! TITANO and TURTLE BOY 12-2 PM TODAY!

ONE AT A TIME, PARDNERS!

:SHEESH:

HERE YOU GO-- "TO MY FAVORITE PAL, MICHAEL ANGELO.

IT'S MICHELANGELO, TURTLE BOY!

TURTLE BOY

WE LIKE YOU WAY BETTER THAN THAT STINKY OLD MONKEY!

WASTE

WHEN I DID THAT PIZZA AD MONTHS AGO*, I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE SO LUCRATIVE!

THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE FEE IS GOING TO HELP ME GET A NEW USED CAR!

*IN ADVENTURES #487

THAT'S IT! THESE GEEKS DON'T APPRECIATE THE SUBTLETY I'M BRINGING TO THIS TRAGIC APE CREATURE!

I AM AN AC-TOR!

I DON'T NEED THIS HUMILIATION!

BUT WE PAID YOU ALREADY!

HEY, COME ON, MR. OLIVIER--PUT THE MASK BACK ON--YOU'RE SCARING THE KIDS!

PULL YOUR HEAD BACK INTO YOUR SHELL-- AND BUTT OUT!

BOP

OMIGAWD! TURTLE BOY, ARE YOU OKAY?

GIVE THAT NASTY APE A NINJA KICK!

I THINK HE'S OUT COLD!

JIMMY? LISTEN TO ME...

SHE'S BACK, JIMMY.

SHE'S GOT A FOOTHOLD IN METROPOLIS AGAIN.

WHO? WHO'S TALKING?

IT'S STARTING OVER, JIMMY.

YOUR VOICE--I KNOW IT...

IT'S DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU...

...I MUST GO...

JERRY? JERRY WHITE? BUT YOU'RE DEAD!

NO ONE'S DEAD, KID-- THOUGH THAT ACTOR WILL BE IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON HIM AGAIN!

BLAZE-- BLAZE IS BACK...

SOCOOL!

"WHO'S BLAZE?"

THEY THINK I DON'T HEAR THEM, TALKING BEHIND MY BACK?

IF THIS WASN'T MY FIRST DAY, I'D FIRE THOSE WAGS!

THEY'D PRESUME TO JUDGE ME BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW ME?

I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM-- EYAAAAA!

M-MM-MY F-F-FACE!

SOMETHING WRONG?

H-HOT WATER SCALDED ME. THAT'S ALL.

WEIRD-O! HE'S PALE AS A--

--SHEEEEEEET!

I'M JUST A LITTLE OVEREXCITED TODAY. THE MIRROR WAS A LITTLE FOGGED UP FROM THE HOT WATER IS ALL.

OH-MY-GOD-- THAT'S BLOOD.

YER BLOCKING MY WAY, CHROME-DOME!

I DO NEED A HAIRCUT, THOUGH!

I MUST BE SLIPPING-- IMAGINE WHAT THAT GUY'D THINK IF I TOLD HIM I WAS *SEEING* THINGS IN MY REFLECTION!

THANK YOU...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

YES SIR! NASTY WAGS WOULD SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT OLD FOSWELL'S OFF HIS NUT!

FOS-WELL HAS MARKED OUR ENTRANCE INTO THIS PLACE.

TERRY--THOSE-- THINGS CRAWLED OFF THE GLASS!

AHHHHHH

I'M NOT GOING TO BE *SHY* ABOUT THIS.

I MUST ASK MR. THORNTON FOR HIS ADVICE ON HOW TO STEM THIS VICIOUS SNIPING.

EXCUSE ME, MISS--IS *HE* IN?

NAME'S *MADDY*--AND I *THINK* HE IS.

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON DOWN THE HALL?

THE AD DEPARTMENT LAND A NEW CLIENT?

MR. THORNTON? A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, PLEASE?

GOOD GOD, THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!

HELLO?

MANY GATEWAYS HAVE BEEN BREACHED...

ODD. HE'S NOT HERE.

OH, WELL, I'LL LEAVE HIM A *NOTE*.

GIVE ME A *MAJOR* BREAK!

I MEAN, I'VE HEARD THAT THINGS LIKE THIS *DO* HAPPEN--

--BUT ONLY ON "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES!"

FEAR ME NOT, HUMAN.

NO MISERY AWAITS YOU-- THIS DAY.

THESE MIRRORED PORTALS SPEW FORTH *DEMONS* FROM A *DANK PLACE*.

"YOU SURE GAVE US AN AWFUL SCARE..."

...TURTLEBOY!

YOUR NOSE HAS STOPPED BLEEDING, JIM.

FROM WHAT I HEARD, TITANO DIDN'T LIKE PLAYING SECOND BANANA!

:OUCH!

I'M SO SORRY! FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS--FREE PIZZA-PIES?

SOME OTHER TIME, MONTY!

YOU GUYS, THIS IS SERIOUS! LISTEN UP!

WHILE I WAS OUT COLD, I HAD A VISION--JERRY WHITE WAS WARNING ME ABOUT BLAZE!

COULD THIS BE CONNECTED TO OUR LITTLE VAMPIRE ENCOUNTER?

JIMMY TOLD US THAT BLAZE WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SKYHOOK, SO IT IS POSSIBLE...

THIS IS ALL SOMEHOW TIED TO THE NEWSTIME BUILDING IN MY DREAM. SO WE'D BETTER...

OUCH!

WATCH OUT, JIM--YOUR SHOULDER'S STILL NOT HEALED FROM THAT PUNCTURE WOUND YOU GOT FIGHTING THAT BLOODSUCKER!

CLARK WILL GO ON AHEAD AND CHECK ON NEWSTIME. YOU'D BETTER LET ME SEE IF YOUR STITCHES TORE LOOSE.

I DON'T THINK IT'S BLEEDING, LOIS.

"LET'S HAVE A LOOK ANYWAY, JIM."

I'LL USE MY TELESCOPIC VISION TO SEE WHAT I CAN FROM HERE--

GREAT SCOTT!

IT'D BE AN *UNDERSTATEMENT* TO SAY THAT SOMETHING *STRANGE* IS GOING ON AT *NEWSTIME*!

THAT POOR *WOMAN* NEEDS *HELP*, AND SINCE CLARK KENT ISN'T KNOWN FOR HIS DARING MID-AIR *CATCHES*...

...THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR *SUPERMAN*!

HEY!

HELP WANTED

WHOA!

I LOVE IT WHEN THEY GO "*SPLAT*!"

YEEEEEEEEEEE

STAY *LOOSE*, I'VE GOT YOU, MISS.

ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU GIVE ME THE *LOWDOWN* ON--

H-HUNDREDS OF THEM-- *DEVILS*--ALL OVER THE BUILDING!

YOU'LL BE SAFE OVER HERE.

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!

MY F-FRIENDS--?

"HUNDREDS," SHE SAID. CAN THAT BE?

BE CAREFUL-- PLEASE.

OH MAN-- HORDES OF THEM!

WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE ALL OF THEM--

"--BY MYSELF?"

THIS PLACE IS A NEXUS FOR THIS INVASION!

--NO MORE!!

STILL, I SENSE BLAZE'S MINIONS FLOOD IN, ELSEWHERE.

SKEESH

THAT IS A PRIME PORTAL--

"I MUST FIND THE HUMAN GATEKEEPER. OR ELSE SEAL THIS HOUSE OF SATANUS FROM BEINGS ENTERING OR EXITING!"

COME ON, LOIS! YOU USED TO BE THE ONE PULLING ME INTO SITUATIONS, LOOKING FOR A HOT STORY!

THAT'S BECAUSE NOW THAT I KNOW CLARK IS SUPERMAN, I TRY TO STAY OUT OF HIS WAY!

COMING?

I DON'T LIKE THIS--WHERE'S BUILDING SECURITY?

THEIR DESK IS OVER HERE...

GOOD LORD! :CHOKE:

YOU SIGN IN, YAH?

ME SO HUNGRY!

YUM

RUN FOR THE DOORS, TURTLE-BOY!

OH, MAN-- WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS, ANYWAYS?

DON'T TELL ME-- THE DOORS ARE LOCKED?

WHAT'RE YOU-- CLAIRVOYANT?

IT'S ME. OH GOD, THEY'RE CRAWLING OUT OF ANYTHING THAT MY IMAGE WAS REFLECTED IN!

THEY'RE AFTER ME-- BECAUSE I WAS TOUCHED BY THAT ANGEL!

BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE HARMED ME YET.

OOH!

CRAAK-SHHK!

I'VE SEEN USER-FRIENDLY COMPUTERS BEFORE, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!

I HEARD YOU IN THE HALLWAY, FOS--ER, FELLA! HOW ARE YOU CONNECTED TO ALL OF THIS?

SUPERMAN! MY ANGEL SENT YOU TO SAVE ME AGAIN!

YOU NO TALK TO FOZGOYLE. :'MUNCH:

FOZGOYLE-- ANGEL? WHAT'RE YOU--? :'ARRGH.':

THAT DEMON BROKE SKIN-- 'GOT TO BE CAREFUL, I'M VULNERABLE TO MAGICS!

:OWWCH:! THIS FEMALE IS BOOTIFUL--SHE MUST BE MINE! :ERK:!

GET THAT DEAD GUARD'S WEAPONS, JIM!

I'LL NEVER MAKE FUN OF THE SIZE OF THAT PURSE AGAIN, LOIS!

AND I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT, IF WE EVER MAKE IT OUT OF THIS JAM!

THIS IS LIFE OR DEATH, LOIS...

...SO LET'S HIT THESE DEMONS WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

WHUB!

I CAN SEE THAT, JIMBO!

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT ELEVATOR DOOR--I HIT THE "UP" BUTTON A SECOND AGO!

BLAM

AIEEE! YOU WOUND ME, MY LOVE!

BLAM

IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?

NO.

:WHEW:! WE'RE MOVING, BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S ON ANY OF THE UPPER FLOORS!

BUT IT'LL DO 'TIL ONE COMES ALONG!

MORE MADNESS!

LISTEN TO ME, MISTER--YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN THIS "ANGEL" TALK OF YOURS!

DID IT HAPPEN BEFORE I SAVED YOU ON THE BRIDGE?

SH-SHE SENT YOU TO SAVE M-M-M-ME...

...AND NOW THESE DEVILS ARE TRYING TO RUIN ME FOR AC-AC-ACCEPTING HER GIFT!

WHAT GIFT?

YOU NO TALK TO FOZGOYLE, BLUE-MAN!

BY ALL THAT'S HOLY!

MISTRESS BLAZE NO HOLY!

YAHHHHH

SHEER NUMBERS--WEIGHING ME DOWN!

AIEEEE

BACK TO BLAZE WITH YOU, CHATTEL!

HELLFIRE!

DEAR LORD...

YES, HUMAN-- LORD SATANUS!

THIS FOOL HAS OPENED THE GATES TO THE NETHERWORLD, SUPERMAN--

-- I FEAR ONLY HIS DEATH CAN DRAW THE GATES SHUT!

THAT PUTS US AT ODDS, MISTER!

THE PAWNS ARE IN PLACE, DEAR BROTHER, AND MY KNIGHT HAS MADE HIS MOVE!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

TO BE CONTINUED IN "PAYMENT DUE" IN ACTION COMICS #680.

PAYMENT DUE

METROPOLIS. THE OFFICES OF NEWSTIME MAGAZINE...

NEWLY-HIRED MANAGING EDITOR SAM FOSWELL IS NOT HAVING A VERY GOOD FIRST DAY...

I-I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME!

THIS HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!

A DEVILISHLY DIFFERENT TALE OF

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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THESE... THESE DEMONS CAME FLOWING OUT OF WINDOWS, COMPUTER SCREENS... JUST ABOUT EVERY SHINY SURFACE!

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME... UNTIL SUPERMAN SHOWED UP!

THEY EVEN HURT HIM, AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST ABOUT IMPOSSIBLE!

THIS IS MADDENING! I THOUGHT I WAS THROUGH WITH THESE CREATURES, BUT MORE KEEP COMING!

YOU CANNOT TREAT THEM TOO HARSHLY, SUPERMAN! THEY ARE OF THE INFERNAL REALMS... THEY CANNOT BE KILLED... ONLY DISCORPORATED!

WE MUST NOT HESITATE TO USE OUR FULL POWER AGAINST THEM -- ELSE EVEN SUCH AS WE MAY BE OVERCOME!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD TRUST *YOUR* WORD, MISTER.

STILL, HE DID HELP FREE ME FROM THE FIRST BUNCH...*

...AND THESE THINGS ARE DEFINITELY *SUPERNATURAL!* IN FACT, THEY'RE A LOT LIKE THE MONSTERS *BLAZE* SICCED ON ME!**

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #493.
** BACK IN SUPERMAN #47.

I *KNOW* OF WHAT I SPEAK! THERE CAN BE NO HALF-MEASURES IN DEALING WITH SUCH DEMONS!

THEY CAN BE EITHER INCINERATED OR SHATTERED--BUT THEY MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

THAT HORNED MAN--WHAT DID HE CALL HIMSELF? *SATANUS?* --BLAMED *ME* FOR THESE DEMONS COMING HERE!* HE'D *KILL* ME IF HE GOT THE CHANCE--

--AND I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT SUPERMAN COULD STOP HIM! I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

IT ISN'T *FAIR*... THIS ISN'T *MY* FAULT! I'M A *VICTIM* IN ALL THIS...

*AGAIN, IN ADVENTURES #493.

"...JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S STUCK IN THE BUILDING!"

IT'S OKAY, LOIS... I DON'T THINK THOSE MONSTERS CAN GET AT US IN HERE!

YES, BUT WE CAN'T STAY IN THIS ELEVATOR FOR-EVER, JIM! AND IF THOSE DEMONS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE *LOBBY*, THEY'RE MOST LIKELY ON THE UPPER FLOORS, TOO!

YEAH... WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FACE THAT PROBLEM WHEN WE COME TO IT. I HOPE CLARK'S OKAY ... HE WAS HEADED HERE...

I WISH MY *SIGNAL WATCH* HADN'T BEEN BROKEN! * WE COULD SURE USE *SUPERMAN* NOW!

LET'S NOT WORRY NEED-LESSLY, JIM. CLARK CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF--

*IN MAN OF STEEL #14.

--AND SOMETHING LIKE THIS WON'T ESCAPE SUPERMAN'S NOTICE!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, I--

LOIS, LOOK OUT!!

WHAT--?! OH, NO!!

GET BACK!

KRESH

BOY, THAT WAS WEIRD! DOGGONE DEMON ... IT WAS COMING RIGHT OUTTA THE GLASS! AT LEAST WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE!

UH, JIM--?

KILL THEM!

KILL!

KILL THEM!

DING!

OW! ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!

JIMMY, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

LOOK, IT'S--

"--SUPERMAN!"

LOIS?

LOIS, GET BACK!!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO "GET BACK" TO!

THESE THINGS ARE ALL OVER US!

THEN THEY MUST BE DEALT WITH!

EEEEEEE..!

JIMMY! LOIS!! NO!!!

YOU'VE KILLED THEM! KILLED THEM!!

I DID ONLY WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

I SWEAR, YOU'LL SUFFER FOR--!

UH... SUPERMAN?

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON THE GUY. WE'RE OKAY... I THINK.

THAT... FIRE... STARTLED ME, BUT IT DIDN'T BURN US AT ALL.

YEAH... WEIRD...

... BUT IT SURE DID A NUMBER ON THOSE LITTLE MONSTERS!

SORRY. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.

ACCEPTED. I KEEP MY *HELL-FIRE* UNDER EXACTING CONTROL. I SAW NO CAUSE TO HARM INNOCENTS IN THIS CASE.

FRIENDS OF YOURS, I TAKE IT?

YES, VERY GOOD FRIENDS.

NOW WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!

GEEZ, SUPERMAN, I HAD THIS... WELL, *VISION*, I GUESS. IT SOUNDS DOPEY, BUT I SAW TROUBLE HERE-- AND *BLAZE* WAS INVOLVED! AND MR. KENT--!

CLARK CAME ON AHEAD-- BUT I'M *SURE* HE'S IN NO DANGER IF YOU'RE AROUND.

NO MORE DANGER THAN THE REST OF US, CERTAINLY.

I KNOW NOT THE SOURCE OF THIS BOY'S VISION, BUT IT WAS MOST ACCURATE. THIS IS INDEED BLAZE'S HANDIWORK!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT THIS, SATANUS! WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION IN--? *HEY*, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT YOU CONTROLLED YOUR FIRE!

I DO.

WELL, KEEP A BETTER EYE ON IT! IT'S SPREADING THROUGH THAT ELEVATOR!

EH? THOSE FLAMES ARE NOT OF MY MAKING!

STAND AWAY!

FUH-THOOM

WELL, I GUESS WE WON'T BE GETTING OUT OF HERE *THAT* WAY!

:UHHHNN!:

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I SENSE A GROWING IMBALANCE IN THE FLOW OF DIMENSIONAL FORCES.

BLAZE GROWS BOLDER! SHE HAS UNLEASHED MAJOR MYSTIC ENERGIES ABOUT THE STRUCTURE WE INHABIT--

"--SEALING IT OFF FROM THE REST OF THIS REALITY!"

"UNLESS HER SPELL CAN BE BROKEN, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THIS BUILDING--

"--AND NO ONE ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER!"

WHAT IN THE DEVIL IS GOING ON AT NEWSTIME?

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...

...BETTER CHECK WITH BUILDING SECURITY!

GYAHHH!

BADGE 95 TO DISPATCH... WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM AT THE NEWSTIME BUILDING ON 23RD.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION, 95?

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT. BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT ON THIS ONE...

"...UNLESS YOU KNOW A NUMBER TO CALL SUPERMAN!"

:UUNGHH!:

NOW WILL YOU BELIEVE ME?

PHYSICAL MIGHT ALONE CANNOT SHATTER BLAZE'S *BARRIER*. YOU ARE TRAPPED HEREIN AS EFFECTIVELY AS ARE WE!

THERE MUST... BE SOME WAY TO... *BREAK THROUGH!* HUNDREDS... OF *PEOPLE*... ARE SCATTERED...THROUGHOUT THIS BUILDING! IF WE CAN'T... GET THEM OUT--!

THEY SHALL ALL BE AT THE MERCY OF THE DEMONS. THAT IS WHY WE MUST FIND THE MAN *FOSWELL*... HE HAS DISAPPEARED AMID THE CHAOS.

SAM FOSWELL?! WHAT DOES *HE* HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

HE HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE *TOUCH OF BLAZE!* THROUGH HIM, SHE WAS ABLE TO SEND HER DEMONS HERE.

YOU SAID AS MUCH EARLIER, SATANUS. AS I RECALL, YOU ALSO THREATENED FOSWELL'S *LIFE!*

HIS DEATH... MAY NOT BE NECESSARY, *IF* WE CAN LOCATE HIM IN TIME. BUT IF HE ELUDES US, I CANNOT GUARANTEE THE CONSEQUENCES! HE IS A DANGER!

LISTEN, I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU KILL HIM--!

SUPERMAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR WE CAN TRUST THIS GUY, BUT HE HASN'T STEERED US WRONG YET!

GEEZ-LOUISE, JUST USE YOUR *X-RAY VISION* TO FIND FOSWELL, AND LET'S GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

WHAT THE BOY SUGGESTS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE, SUPERMAN-- BUT BY ALL MEANS, *TRY!*

WHAT IN THE--?! I TRIED TO LOOK THROUGH THE FLOOR, BUT ALL I CAN SEE IS... ME!

AS I FEARED, EVEN *YOUR* EXTRAORDINARY SENSES ARE THWARTED BY BLAZE'S SORCERIES. WE MUST TAKE ANOTHER COURSE.

"*WE*" AREN'T DOING ANYTHING UNTIL *YOU* LEVEL WITH US, SATANUS! I TRY NEVER TO JUDGE A PERSON ON APPEARANCES, BUT I DON'T CARE MUCH FOR YOURS--

--AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR ENIGMATIC PRONOUNCEMENTS! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT BLAZE, AND I WANT TO KNOW IT *NOW!*

IT WOULD TAKE AN *ETERNITY* TO RELATE THAT, SUPERMAN, AND WE HAVE PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME.

YOU SEE, I KNOW BLAZE BETTER THAN ANY OTHER...

...SHE IS MY *SISTER* --AND MY ETERNAL ENEMY! THROUGH HER TREACHERY I WAS DEPOSED AGES AGO. I KNOW THAT SHE HAS MADE AN ENEMY OF YOU... AND THAT MAKES ME YOUR *ALLY!*

YOU MUST *BELIEVE* ME, FOSWELL IS A MOST DANGEROUS PAWN. WE MUST FIND HIM...

"...OR THERE SHALL INDEED BE HELL TO PAY!"

GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE --BUT *WHERE?*

WISH I KNEW MY WAY AROUND THIS PLACE BETTER.

IN HERE, MAYBE? SOUNDS QUIET...SURE IS DARK, THOUGH.

WHERE'RE THE LIGHTS? AH, HERE...

WELCOME, FOSWELL!

THE MISTRESS AWAITS YOU!

N-NO! NOOO!!

DO NOT BE AFRAID, SAMUEL...

...YOU HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR AS LONG AS YOU TRUST IN ME!

Y-YOU... MY GUARDIAN ANGEL! NO, I COULD NEVER FORGET... YOU SAVED MY LIFE!* EVERYTHING TURNED AROUND FOR ME, JUST AS YOU PROMISED...

DID I NOT SAVE YOU FOR A LIFE OF GREAT REWARD? HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN YOUR UNSPOKEN PLEDGE?

* IN SUPERMAN #70.

...U-UNTIL THESE DEMONS SHOWED UP! Y-YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME FROM THEM! PLEASE!

OH, SAMUEL... POOR, DELUDED SAMUEL!

DO NOT COVER YOUR EYES! LOOK MORE CAREFULLY AND YOU WILL SEE THAT THERE ARE NO DEMONS HERE...

...ONLY MY HOST OF FOLLOWERS. THEY WOULD NEVER HARM YOU, SAMUEL. THEY LOVE YOU AS DO I.

THERE IS NO DANGER HERE...

"... DANGER COMES ONLY FROM THE CORRUPTION OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD!"

PERIMETER'S SECURED, CAP'N SAWYER... NOT THAT MUCH SECURING WAS NECESSARY! THAT *FORCE-FIELD*-- OR WHATEVER IT IS -- HAS THE BUILDING SEALED OFF TIGHTER'N A DRUM!

JUST KEEP THE CROWDS BACK, RUSSELL. IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR THIS *PARTICLE BEAMER* TO POWER UP!

IS THAT "SCI-FI" GADGET GONNA WORK, MAGGIE?

LET'S HOPE SO, DAN. LEXCORP CLAIMS IT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING... NOT THAT IT'S REALLY BEEN FIELD-TESTED YET! I'M SURE THAT--

POLICE

"--THEY'LL BE KEEPING AS CLOSE AN EYE ON IT AS WE WILL!"

IT'S BEING SET UP NOW, DR. HAPPERSEN. DOES MR. LUTHOR KNOW--?

HE WILL SOON...

"... I JUST WISH HE WEREN'T OUT OF TOWN!"

I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY TOKYO, LOVE. IT'S QUITE A REMARK-ABLE CITY...

YOU'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE, LEX?

YES, I... WELL... NOT *MYSELF*, NO... BUT FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME...

EH? I LEFT ORDERS FOR US NOT TO BE DIS-TURBED! WHO THE DEVIL COULD BE CALLING?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

RING

RING

HAPPERSEN?! OF COURSE YOU WERE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT! EVERYTHING I DO IS--! WHAT?!

REALLY? UH-HUH... I SEE. YES, YOU WERE QUITE RIGHT TO LEND THEM THE BEAMER. MAINTAIN SURVEIL-LANCE AND KEEP ME APPRISED.

IS THIS GOING TO CUT INTO OUR VACATION?

HARD TO SAY, LOVE. THERE'S SOME STRANGENESS BACK IN METROPOLIS... THE ENTIRE NEWSTIME BUILDING'S BOTTLED UP IN A *FORCE-FIELD!*

THERE'S BEEN NO COMMUNICATION WITH ANYONE INSIDE, BUT ONE WITNESS REPORTED THAT *SUPERMAN* HAD GONE IN BEFORE THE FIELD APPEARED.

WHAT?!

YES, IT WOULD BE QUITE INTEREST-ING IF--! *SUPERGIRL!* WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

BUCKLING YOU IN SECURELY! I DON'T WANT YOU SUCKED OUT BY ANY SUDDEN DECOMPRESSION!

BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!

YOU DON'T MEAN--?

"SUPERGIRL --WAIT! COME BACK!"

SORRY, LEX DARLING... I MAY HAVE HAD MY DIFFERENCES WITH SUPERMAN, BUT I STILL OWE HIM SO MUCH!

IF SOME STRANGE FORCE HAS HIM TRAPPED, I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING! AFTER ALL--

"--EVEN A SUPERMAN NEEDS AN ALLY NOW AND THEN!"

NO SIGNS OF FOSWELL ON *THIS* FLOOR, EITHER! JUST A LOT OF SCARED OFFICE WORKERS!

PRESS ONWARD! WE MUST NOT SLACKEN OUR PACE...

...THERE ARE 54 MORE FLOORS YET TO SEARCH!

WE'RE GONNA DIE.

PLEASE... JUST STAY CALM!

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. SUPERMAN CAN HANDLE EVERYTHING.

I HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO YOUR PROMISES, LOIS, BUT I'VE SELDOM BEEN LESS SURE OF ANYTHING!

I HATE HAVING TO PUT ANY TRUST IN SATANUS ...I KNOW THERE MUST BE PLENTY HE'S NOT SAYING...

...BUT HE WAS WILLING TO LET US COLLECT AND PROTECT THE SURVIVING WORKERS AS WE SCOUR THE BUILDING. LIKE IT OR NOT, HE'S MY ONLY HOPE FOR GETTING ANYONE OUT OF HERE ALIVE--!

OW!

KILL YOU... KILL ALL!

I DON'T THINK SO!

I HATE THIS!

AND I REALLY HATE THE SUPERNATURAL!

YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE, DEMON! YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME!

LORD SATANUS... NO! NO CHOICE HAD WE!

BOUND TO THE WILL OF BLAZE ARE WE ALL!

NO, NOT ALL OF US, WRETCH! SATANUS IS NO ONE'S PAWN!

ONE DAY ALL WHO HAVE OPPOSED ME SHALL KNOW THE TORMENTS OF OBLIVION! BUT FOR NOW...

...BACK TO THE PITS WITH YOU!

I THINK YOU'RE ENJOYING THAT A LITTLE TOO MUCH, SATANUS!

PERHAPS. ONE TAKES BRIEF PLEASURES WHERE ONE MAY.

NOW GATHER YOUR MORTAL CHARGES AND LET US DESCEND ANOTHER FLIGHT.

WE CANNOT LINGER HERE... WE *MUST* FIND FOSWELL...

"... WHEREVER HE MAY BE!"

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? THE ROOM... I-IT'S FALLEN AWAY! WHERE--?

I HAVE REMOVED US TO THE SPACE WHICH LOOMS BETWEEN THE SPHERES, SAMUEL. HERE WE WILL BE HIDDEN FROM THOSE WHO WOULD DO YOU HARM.

THE DEMONS--?

YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW--? OH, SAMUEL, YOUR ENEMIES ARE NOT OF THE INFERNAL REALMS --THEY ARE OF THE MORTAL WORLD!

LET ME SHOW YOU...

SO, FOSWELL HAS A GUARDIAN ANGEL? IF I'D KNOWN THAT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BOTHERED TO SAVE HIS WORTHLESS HIDE!

IF THERE WAS EVER A GUY WHO DESERVED TO SUFFER, IT'S FOSWELL! WHEN HE WAS AT THE *DAILY PLANET*, HE FIRED ME! I SAY SATANUS IS RIGHT--

--LET'S KILL HIM!

JIMMY'S RIGHT, SUPERMAN!

NO! SUPERMAN, DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!

I DON'T USUALLY GO IN FOR SUCH THINGS, MS. LANE... BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S FOR THE BEST--!

YOU SEE, SAMUEL? *THEY* ENGINEERED YOUR TERMINATION AT THE *DAILY PLANET*, AS REVENGE FOR YOUNG OLSEN'S TRAVAILS.

THEY ***ENVY*** YOU THE POWER YOU GAINED AT *NEWSTIME*. THEY ARE YOUR ***TRUE ENEMIES!*** BUT I CAN HELP YOU HAVE YOUR REVENGE UPON THEM!

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, BUT... YES... ***YES***, THEY WERE ALWAYS ***JEALOUS*** OF ME!

HELP ME, ANGEL! HELP ME GET BACK AT THEM! I'LL DO ***ANYTHING*** YOU ASK!

I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT.

BUT FIRST, YOU MUST *PROVE* YOUR DEVOTION TO ME... BY SHARING *BLOOD* WITH ONE OF MY HOST!

HEY! *OUCH!* A-ARE YOU SURE THIS IS *SAFE?*

YOUR ANGEL WILL ALWAYS WATCH OVER YOU, SAMUEL. DO YOU *DOUBT* ME?

N-NO, *NEVER!*

GOOD! THEN THE PACT IS *SEALED!* NOW SHALL YOU JOIN--

--MY HELLISH HOST!

WHAT? I... *AARRGH!*

WHAT... IS... HAPPENING...

...TO... *MEEEE?!*

WHY, YOUR TRANSFORMATION HAS JUST BEGUN, SAMUEL!

AFTER ALL, YOU *SAID* THAT YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME! NOW YOU SHALL TRULY BECOME THE PAWN OF *BLAZE...*

"... NOW SHALL YOU CARRY OUT MY WILL!"

WAIT A MINUTE! EVERYONE STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

WHAT IS IT, SUPERMAN? WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M NOT CERTAIN. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FULLY TRUST ANY OF MY SENSES, BUT I'D SWEAR I JUST HEARD SOMETHING--

RHAARH!

--OVERHEAD.

SUPERMAN!!

K-TOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHERE'D SUPERMAN AND THAT HORNED GUY GO?

JIMMY--!

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, LOIS. WHATEVER IT WAS THAT SLAMMED INTO SUPERMAN AND SATANUS HAD A LOT OF *POWER* BEHIND IT!

THEY MUST BE HALFWAY TO THE *LOBBY* BY NOW!

YOU... YOU AGREED TO KILL ME! BIG HERO... HAH!

JUST LIKE ALL THE REST-- ENVY MY POWER! HATE ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

...BUT YOU'RE A LOT BIGGER AND TOUGHER THAN THESE OTHER DEMONS!

THAT PUNCH JUST BARELY KNOCKED HIM OFF BALANCE!

I WILL KILL YOU... SLOWLY!!

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT VOICE... I HEAR BLAZE'S INFLUENCE, BUT UNDERLYING THAT ...FOSWELL?!

OF COURSE! I MUST--!

EH? WHAT--?!

BUHROOM

OH, MAN, NOW WHAT?! EARTH-QUAKE--?

THIS IS NO QUAKE. IT FEELS MORE LIKE...

BUHROOM

"...SOMEONE'S HITTING THE BUILDING WITH A HUGE WRECKING BALL!"

UFF!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH MOMENTUM I BUILD, I CAN'T SEEM TO SMASH THROUGH!

BUHROOM

SUPERGIRL! WE'RE NOT HAVING MUCH LUCK WITH THIS GIZMO! CAP'N SAWYER WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU CAN ADD ANYTHING TO IT!

HMMM... MAYBE I CAN!

A PURELY PHYSICAL ATTACK HASN'T BEEN GETTING ME ANYWHERE.

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AIM MY *PSYCHOKINESIS* ALONG THEIR ENERGY BEAM!

BREE-

EOWW

OUTSIDE FORCES ARE ACTUALLY ON THE VERGE OF BREACHING THE BARRIER!

IF THAT SHOULD HAPPEN, THE WHOLE OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD MIGHT BE DRAWN INTO BLAZE'S DOMAIN! THAT WOULD BE *DISASTROUS* AT THIS STAGE!

MUCH AS IT DISGUSTS ME, I MUST LINK MY POWER WITH THAT WHICH BLAZE HAS CONJURED...

"...JOIN WITH THE ENERGIES OF THE BARRIER AND TRY TO MOVE IT--AND ALL WITHIN--TO A *NEUTRAL REALM!*

BY ALL FIRES ETERNAL...

"...LET THE POWER OF SATANUS PREVAIL!"

EEYYAAA!!

SUPERGIRL! ARE YOU OKAY?!

I-I THINK SO! I WAS ALMOST THROUGH... BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, SOMETHING KNOCKED ME BACK!

MAGGIE --LOOK!

OH... MY... GOD...

...IT'S *GONE!* THE WHOLE DARN NEWSTIME BUILDING HAS JUST *DISAPPEARED!*

HOW CAN SUCH A THING HAPPEN?

I GOT A *BETTER* QUESTION FOR YA, "SUPERGAL"...

"... WHERE IN BLAZES DID IT GO?!"

NEWSTIME

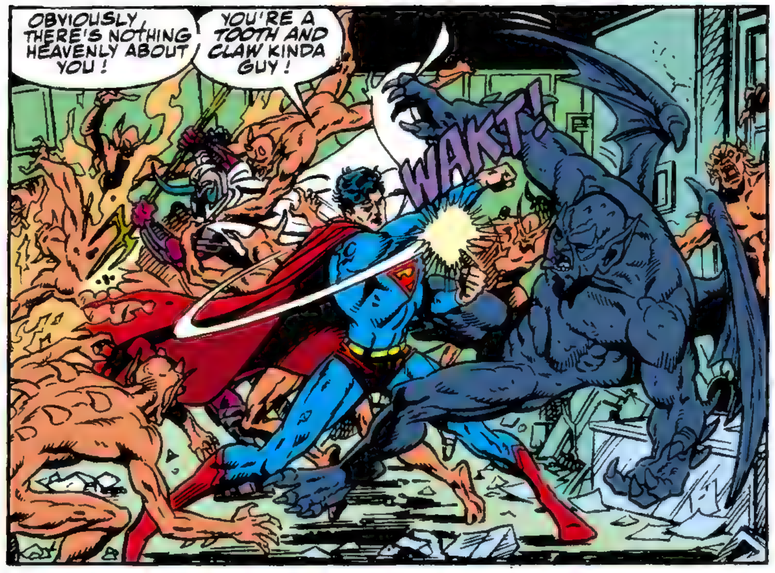
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN *SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL!* WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MISS--

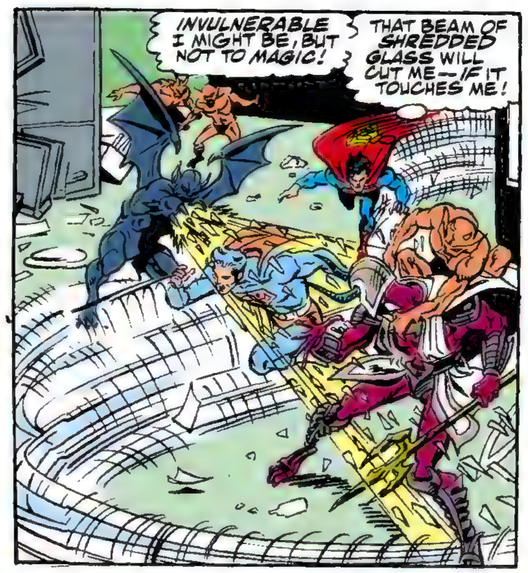
"SANCTUARY!"

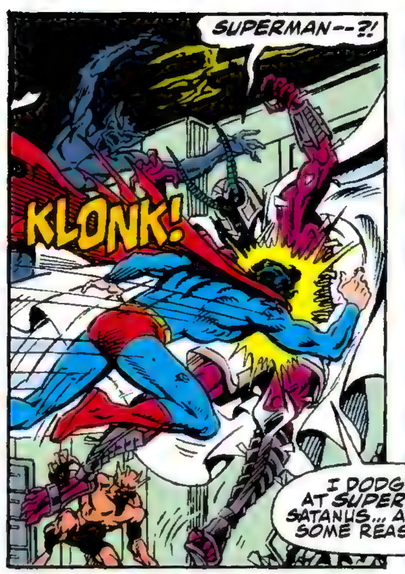
THE NEWSTIME BUILDING! IT'S SHAKING AROUND ME!

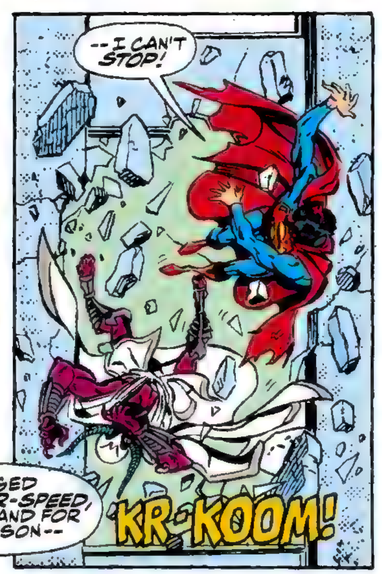
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS CAUSING IT?!

NOT HEAVEN!









sanctuary

LOUISE SIMONSON - STORY
KERRY & KEITH GAMMILL & GIFFEN - PENCILS
DENNIS & TREVOR JANKE & SCOTT - INKS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERING
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORING
JENNIFER FRANK - ASST. EDITING
MIKE CARLIN - EDITING

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

LEARN FROM THIS, SUPERMAN! NO FORCE HERE ACTS AS IT DOES ON EARTH!

THAT'S... THE NEWSTIME BUILDING! BUT WHERE IS IT? WHERE ARE WE?

I HAVE TAKEN US WHERE OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE GREATER EVIL OF MY SISTER BLAZE...

"...CAN DO NO HARM TO EARTH."

THAT'S... WHERE THE NEWSTIME BUILDING USED TO BE.

CAPTAIN SAWYER... WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

POLICE

I-I SAW IT! SAW IT ALL, SUPERGIRL!

I RAN LIKE HECK... OR I'D BE GONE, TOO. JUST LIKE THEM.

104

THERE WERE DEMONS IN THERE.

AN' THEN THE BUILDING GLOWED... AN' IT JUST... DISAPPEARED.

SCARY THING IS... I BELIEVE EVERY WORD HE SAYS.

GIVE ME THE MAYOR'S OFFICE. YEAH, IT'S THE NEWSTIME BUILDING...

215

POLICE

...AN' I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CALL FOR MORE COPS--

DAILY PL

--OR AN EXORCIST!

WHAT?!

MR. WHITE!

PERRY WHITE EDITOR

RON, WHAT IS IT, LAD?

IT'S THE NEWSTIME BUILDING, SIR! IT'S GONE!

GONE?! GONE WHERE?

I DON'T KNOW, SIR! THE POLICE BANDS SAID... DEMONS STOLE IT!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! IT IS GONE! DEMONS, YOU SAY?

IT'S EVEN WORSE, SIR. MR. KENT AND MISS LANE WENT OVER THERE...

...WITH JIMMY OLSEN.

MR. WHITE--?

TELL THEM TO HOLD MY CALLS, SON! I'LL BE BACK WHEN YOU SEE ME!

CAN IT REALLY HAVE BEEN *DEMONS?* BUT THEN...

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SUPERNATURAL TO BE DEMONIC!

EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THAT BURNED-OUT HUSK OF A CHURCH DOWN THE STREET, I SHUDDER.

POLICE

A CHURCH TURNED *NIGHTCLUB* CALLED *BLAZE'S*...

THE CLUB WHERE MY SON JERRY WAS KILLED.

PERRY!

ALICE! WHAT--?

IT WAS ON THE *RADIO!* I CALLED THE *OFFICE* WHEN I HEARD!

RON TROUPE TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE.

OH... MY... GOD! LOOK, PERRY... THE *CHURCH!*

BLAZE'S

JERRY?

JERRY?!?

ALICE? ALICE--

"--WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?"

YOU MOVED THE NEWSTIME BUILDING HERE, SATANUS? WHY?

IT HAD BECOME A NEXUS...

...A POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN MYSELF AND MY SISTER BLAZE.

I...SHIFTED THE PRIZE HERE, SO THAT YOUR WORLD WILL NOT SUFFER IN OUR CONFRONTATION.

AND WHERE EXACTLY IS HERE?

ANOTHER DIMENSION. A PLACE BEYOND REALITY, AS YOU KNOW IT.

IN TIME, NEWS-TIME MAY BE RESTORED TO EARTH...

...IF THE HUMAN GATEWAY, BLAZE'S PAWN, FOSWELL, IS DESTROYED!

FOSWELL MAY HAVE INADVERTENTLY CAUSED THE DEMON INVASION...

...BUT YOU HAVE, IN THE NAME OF GREATER GOOD, PURPOSELY ENDANGERED EVERY HUMAN IN THAT BUILDING!

I'M TRYING TO CHECK ON LOIS AND JIMMY AND THE OTHERS AND ALL I SEE IS MY OWN FEET!

MY X-RAY VISION--

--IS USELESS, TWISTED, HERE. LIKE YOUR OTHER POWERS.

AND THE PEOPLE--?

UNLESS MY ENEMIES ARE STOPPED--

"--THEY'LL BE DEVOURED ALIVE!"

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THESE MONSTERS! WHERE WILL IT END?!

I WISH I KNEW!

IT'S LIKE THE LAST STAND AT THE ALAMO-- AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THERE!

HEAR CALL?

WE GO!

'BYE, DIN-DIN!

WE COME BACK FOR YOU SOON!

WHEREVER THEY'VE GONE, GOOD RIDDANCE!

PROBLEM IS... THEY'RE PLANNING TO COME BACK.

I WONDER WHY THEY LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY...

"...AND WHERE THEY'VE GONE...?"

NOW--THROUGH HOLE SUPERMAN PUNCH IN WALL!

ATTACK SUPERMAN! DESTROY SATANUS!

YESS!!

WE OBEY!

GREAT SCOTT! THERE ARE *THOUSANDS* OF THEM!

HOW CAN A *SINGLE BUILDING* HOLD SO MANY *DEMONS*?!

ALICE! DON'T GO IN THERE! IT'S NOT SAFE!

BUT, PERRY! DIDN'T YOU SEE HIM? IT WAS OUR SON, JERRY!

HE'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE!

JERRY? WHERE ARE YOU, SON? ANSWER ME!

ALICE, YOU CAN'T HAVE SEEN JERRY. OUR SON IS DEAD.

BUT, PERRY, HE SEEMED ...SO... SO REAL.

IT WAS A TRICK OF THE SHADOWS... YOUR IMAGINATION.

IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN...

CAUGHT LIKE MICE IN A TRAP!

MY BROTHER HAS SUPERMAN ON HIS SIDE.

THE MAN OF STEEL IS HIS GREATEST WEAPON.

BUT TO NEUTRALIZE SUPERMAN...

BLAZE'S

...ONE MUST SIMPLY ENDANGER HIS FRIENDS.

NOW, DEAR BROTHER, MY ROOK IS IN PLAY...

...AND WE WILL PLAY THIS GAME OUT TO ITS DEADLY CONCLUSION!

THE CHURCH! IT FELT LIKE IT... MOVED! AN EARTHQUAKE--?

I DON'T KNOW, ALICE. WE'VE GOT TO GET--

--OUT OF HERE--?!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!

MERCIFUL HEAVEN.

PERRY, WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

WHAT'S MAKING THAT UNHOLY NOISE? IT SOUNDS LIKE A RIOT, OR--

ALICE, DON'T! IF WE GO OUTSIDE, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET BACK IN!

BUT--

IF WE WANT A BETTER LOOK AROUND, WE CAN CLIMB THE BELL TOWER!

LOOK, SATANUS!

A ... CHURCH HAS APPEARED IN THE MIDST OF THIS MADNESS!

IT IS NO ORDINARY CHURCH ... BUT FOR NOW, SUPERMAN, IGNORE IT!

GET THEM!

WE HAVE A MUCH MORE PRESSING PROBLEM!

NO, YOU MONSTER!

YOU WILL NOT SLICE ME AGAIN WITH YOUR BEAMS OF GLASS!

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

SHRACK!

THBOOM!

NEWSTIME!! MY HEAT VISION--

IS NOT WHAT IT WAS! FORGET YOUR SUPER-POWERED ATTEMPTS TO AID US, SUPERMAN...

"...LEST IN YOUR ZEAL, YOU DESTROY US ALL!"

THBOUM!

WHAT WAS THAT?

GET DOWN! THE WALLS ARE COMING APART! THE CEILING'S--!

THE BUILDING'S SHAKING APART! WE'LL BE CRUSHED! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN...

"...FIGHTING DEMONS."

CAN'T CONTROL MY HEAT VISION!

WHAK

SKRAZXH!

EVEN SUPER-STRENGTH IS BARELY ADEQUATE AGAINST THESE CREATURES!

GOOD! WHEN I HIT THE CREATURES HARD ENOUGH, THEY SHATTER, AND--

ANOTHER DEMON GROWS FROM EVERY SHARD.

DAMN!

ALL YOU HAVE LEFT IS SUPER-BREATH. DO NOT USE IT, SUPERMAN!

WHO KNOWS WHAT TERROR THAT WOULD CALL UPON US!

LOOK, ALICE. THAT NOISE... THAT UNHOLY ROW!

IT'S BEING MADE BY THOSE WINGED MONSTERS!

LIKE DEMONS. THEY'RE CIRCLING THE NEWSTIME BUILDING!

THOSE MUST BE THE CREATURES WHO STOLE IT! THEY BROUGHT IT HERE!

WHEREVER HERE IS.

THERE WERE OFFICE WORKERS IN THERE, PERRY. AND RON SAID...

LOIS AND JIMMY AND CLARK WERE VISITING FOSWELL THERE.

THIS CHURCH SEEMS DEMON-FREE.

IF WE RING THE BELLS, IT MIGHT LEAD THE PEOPLE IN NEWSTIME HERE.

OR CALL THE DEMONS TO ATTACK US.

PERRY, IF DEMONS BROUGHT THE NEWSTIME BUILDING HERE...

"...WHO BROUGHT THIS CHURCH?"

DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW, YOU MORTAL FOOLS! THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU MUST DO TO SAVE THEM!

RING THE BELLS! LET THE PROMISE OF SANCTUARY LURE THOSE HUMANS...

...INTO THE OPEN, WHERE THEY'LL BE IN EVEN GRAVER DANGER.

THEN SUPERMAN WILL DESERT MY BROTHER TO SAVE THEM...

...AND I WILL MAKE MY MOVE TO DESTROY SATANUS!

THAT... EXPLOSION MAY HAVE DAMAGED NEWSTIME'S STRUCTURE.

WE BETTER NOT TAKE THE ELEVATORS. WHERE ARE THE STAIRS?

DOWN THIS CORRIDOR AND TO THE LEFT--

GOOD HEAVENS! OUT THERE! WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S HORRIBLE!

HELLISH!

BONG BONG!

IS THAT... CHURCH BELLS?

LOOK OUT... BEYOND THAT MADNESS! THERE IS A CHURCH OUT THERE!

IT LOOKS AS SOLID AS THIS PLACE.

I WONDER WHAT ELSE OUT THERE IS SOLID...?

LOOK! AT LEAST SOME OF THAT STUFF IS SOLID, MORE OR LESS!

IT HELD THE WEIGHT OF THE THAT SLAB OF MARBLE!

...AND IT COULD HOLD US.

IF WE'RE CAREFUL, I THINK WE CAN CROSS IT TO REACH THE CHURCH.

I THINK IT'S WORTH THE SHOT. I SURE DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE!

ME NEITHER. THOSE DEMONS COULD COME BACK AT ANY MINUTE!

WE COULDN'T HAVE HELD THEM OFF MUCH LONGER.

THEN COME ON!

LOIS, WAIT! WHAT ABOUT MR. KENT?

HE'S TRAPPED BACK THERE IN THE BUILDING SOMEWHERE!

WE'LL SEND SUPERMAN TO RESCUE HIM, JIMMY... IF WE SURVIVE!

OMIGOSH! DOWN BELOW! THERE'S SUPERMAN!

HE'S FIGHTING WHAT LOOKS LIKE A MILLION DEMONS!

THEY'RE GONNA EAT HIM ALIVE! LOIS, WE'VE GOTTA HELP!

DON'T KID YOURSELF, JIMMY! WE ARE HELPING!

IF I KNOW SUPERMAN, THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THIS MADNESS...

...IS HIS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY! UNTIL HE KNOWS THEY'RE SAFE, HE'LL BE DISTRACTED WITH CONCERN!

AND RIGHT NOW, A DISTRACTION IS THE LAST THING HE NEEDS!

BONG

BONG BONG

PERRY, STOP! LOOK! THEY HEARD US!

THERE ARE PEOPLE CLIMBING OUT OF NEWS-TIME!

PEOPLE? HA! THEY'RE BAIT! HUMAN BAIT TO TRAP A SUPERMAN!

HURRY, HUMANS! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU KNOW THE NEXT STEP--!

COME ON, ALICE, LET'S GET THOSE CHURCH DOORS OPEN!

PERRY, I THOUGHT I SAW LOIS AND JIMMY, BUT--

"I DON'T SEE CLARK ANYWHERE!"

THUD

IF I CONTROL MY PUNCH, THEY FLY BACK INSTEAD OF SHATTER!

THIS IS SIMPLY A HOLDING ACTION! WE SEEM UNABLE TO DEFEAT THEM!

IF WE CAN DISTRACT THEM FROM THE PEOPLE IN NEWSTIME, WE'LL HAVE GAINED SOMETHING!

KPOW

HITZ HARD!

THEY SEE US! COME ON! HURRY!

HIIIII!

HUMANS EXCAPE!

NO! THEY'RE TURNING!

GET THEM!

HAVE TO HELP THEM REACH THE CHURCH...

STOP THEM!

THEY'VE SPOTTED LOIS AND THE OTHERS!

THEY'RE DOOMED, UNLESS--

GET BACK!

KRSZH!

I HIT THEM HARD AS I COULD... SHATTERED AS MANY AS I COULD REACH!

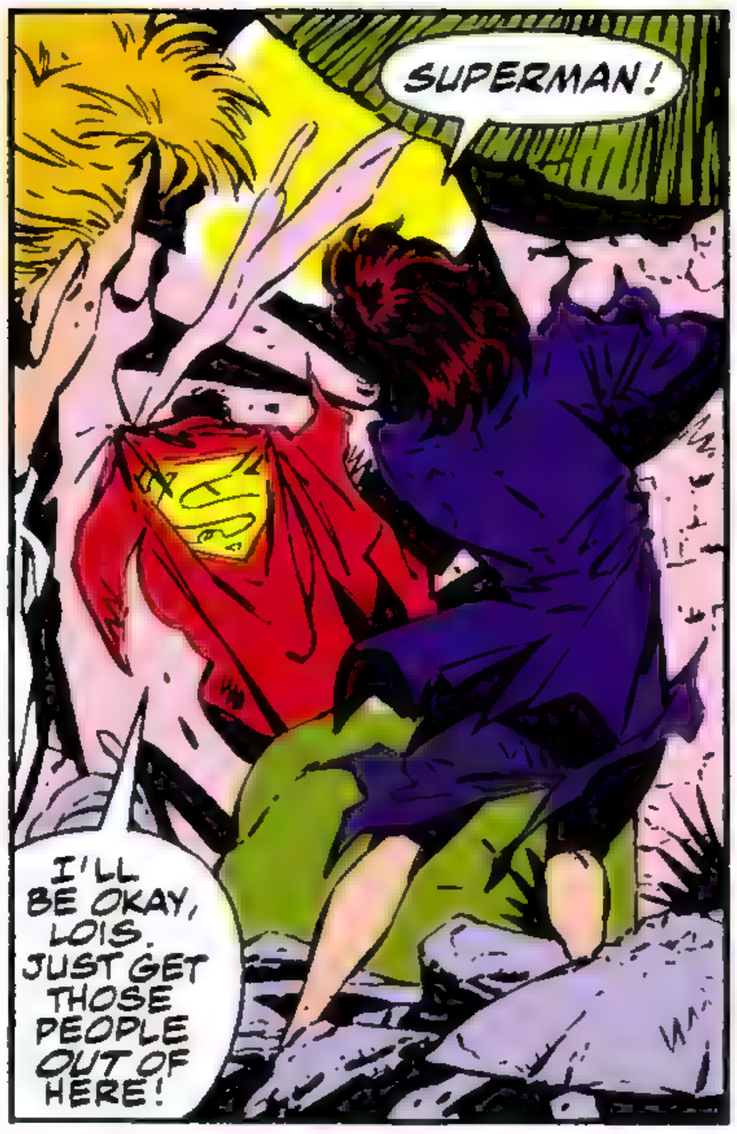
IT MEANS MORE DEMONS IN THE LONG RUN, BUT FOR NOW IT'S BOUGHT ME TIME!

NOW IF I CAN MANAGE TO STOP MYSELF...

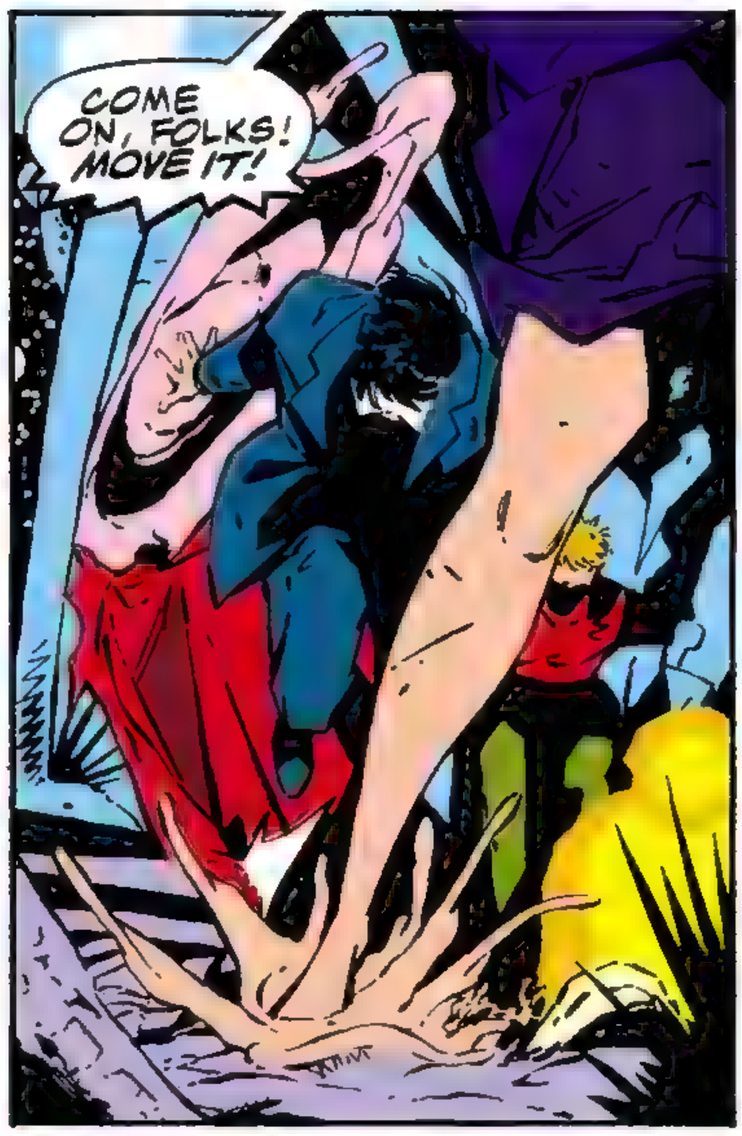
...BEFORE I GO SHOOTING OFF INTO WHAT PASSES HERE FOR THE STRATOSPHERE--!

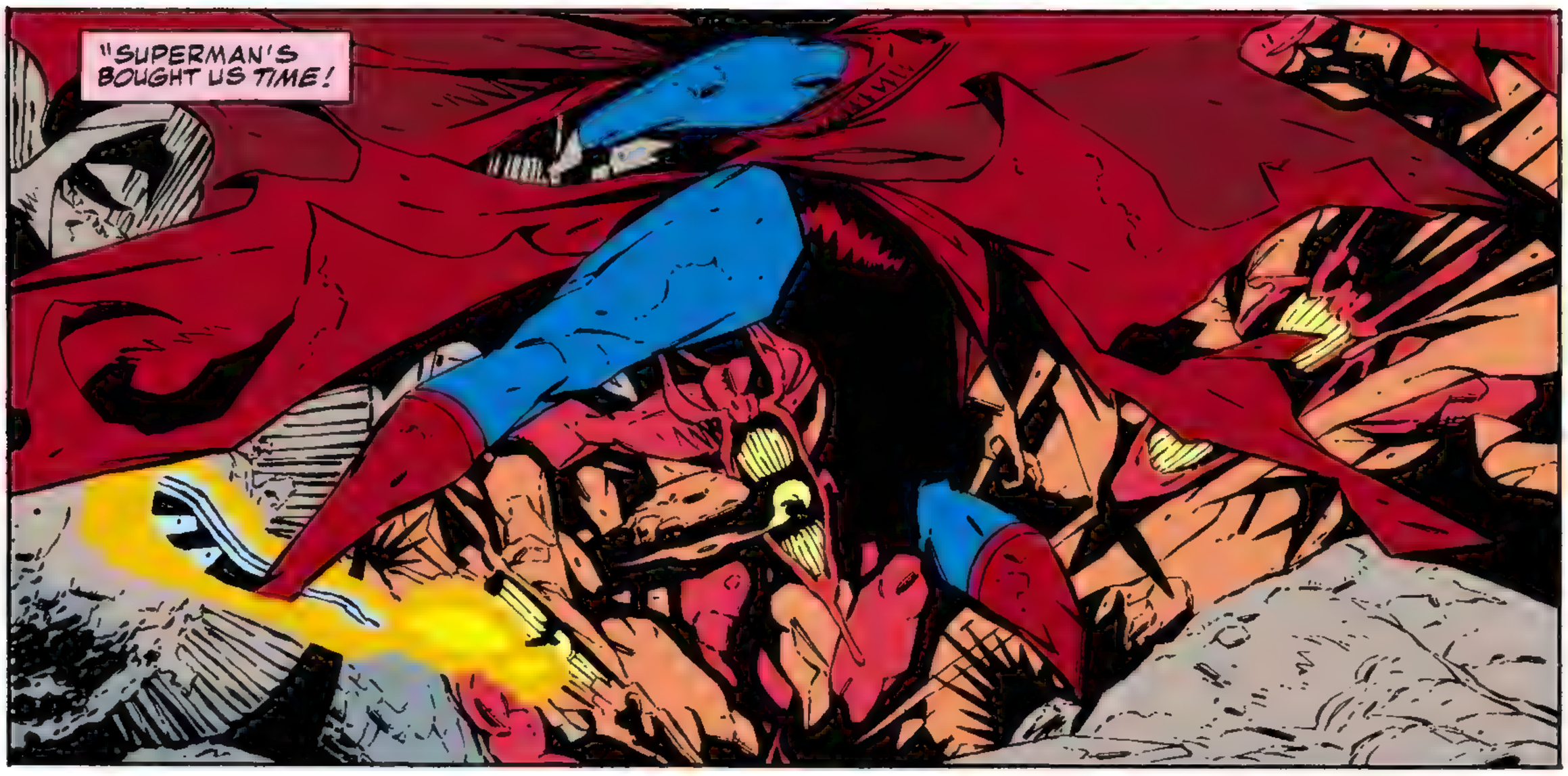
IF YOU WANT THE HUMANS, DEMONS--

--YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME TO GET THEM!


SUPERMAN!
I'LL BE OKAY, LOIS. JUST GET THOSE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!

INTO THE CHURCH... NOW!
YOU GOT IT, SUPERMAN!
AND WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT... REMEMBER THAT... I LOVE YOU!


COME ON, FOLKS! MOVE IT!


"SUPERMAN'S BOUGHT US TIME!

"LET'S MAKE THOSE MINUTES COUNT!"

YOUR DEMONS HAVE DESERTED YOU FOR EASIER PREY, FOSGOYLE!

YOU DIE ALONE... WITH NO MERCIFUL MAN OF STEEL TO STAY MY HAND!

NOR TO KEEP MY HAND FROM YOU, BROTHER DEAR!

AARRGH! BLAZE!

SHRAK

BUT SEPARATED, EACH OF YOU IS PATHETICALLY EASY TO DEFEAT!

IRONIC, ISN'T IT? YOU BROUGHT THE HUMANS HERE--

YOU WERE CLEVER, SATANUS, TO ENLIST SUPERMAN'S AID.

IT MADE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE... TO STAND AGAINST YOU!

--YET THEY ARE THE BAIT THAT LURES SUPERMAN FROM YOUR SIDE!

YOU CELEBRATE YOUR VICTORY, SISTER...

"... BEFORE IT IS IN YOUR HANDS!"

BLAZE'S

IN HERE! QUICK!

PERRY! AND ALICE?! HOW DID YOU--?

TELL YOU LATER! FIRST GET THOSE FOLKS INSIDE!

JIMMY, WHERE'S CLARK?

BACK IN NEWSTIME, I GUESS. WE LOST HIM A WHILE BACK.

IT CAN'T BE EASY ON LOIS, BUT SHE'S... WELL, SHE'S LOIS. SHE'S BEING REALLY BRAVE, AND--

BACK THERE! LOOK!

SUPERMAN!

"THERE'RE SCORES OF THOSE DEMONS!"

"HE'S OVER-WHELMED... BURIED!"

"DEAR LORD, IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE CAN HAVE SURVIVED!"

GRAB HIM!

TAKE HIM--

T' TH' MIZTREZZ!

WELL DONE, MY SERVANTS! THAT'S RIGHT... BRING ME THE MAN OF STEEL!

DOWN, BOY!

DOWN B'FORE MIZTREZZ BLAZE!

SAID KNEEL, PINKY!

:UNNF!:

AS YOU SEE, BROTHER, YOUR STRONG MAN HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.

NOW IT IS JUST YOU AND ME.

THINK AGAIN, SISTER! I HAVE MY HANDS AROUND THE NECK OF YOUR LIVING PORTAL--

...THE FORMER MISTER FOSWELL!

WHEN HE DIES, YOUR DEMONS WILL BE THRUST BACK INTO YOUR OWN DIMENSION!

THAT... MONSTER ...WAS FOSWELL?

YES, INDEED! I TRICKED HIM, YOU SEE! THE PITIFUL FOOL BELIEVED I WAS AN ANGEL.

AND HE IS DOOMED, BODY AND SOUL, UNLESS YOU SAVE HIM!

QUITE A QUANDARY, EH, MAN OF STEEL?

FIGHT FREE AND SAVE FOSWELL, AND YOU TRAP YOUR FRIENDS HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY!

LET MY BROTHER KILL HIM, AND HE PAYS WITH HIS SOUL FOR YOUR FRIENDS' TRANSPORT BACK TO EARTH!

AGAIN, BROTHER, I HAVE TURNED THE TABLES ON YOU!

BEING WHO HE IS, SUPERMAN WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH TO FREE FOSWELL!

SO YOU SEE... SUPERMAN IS MINE NOW!

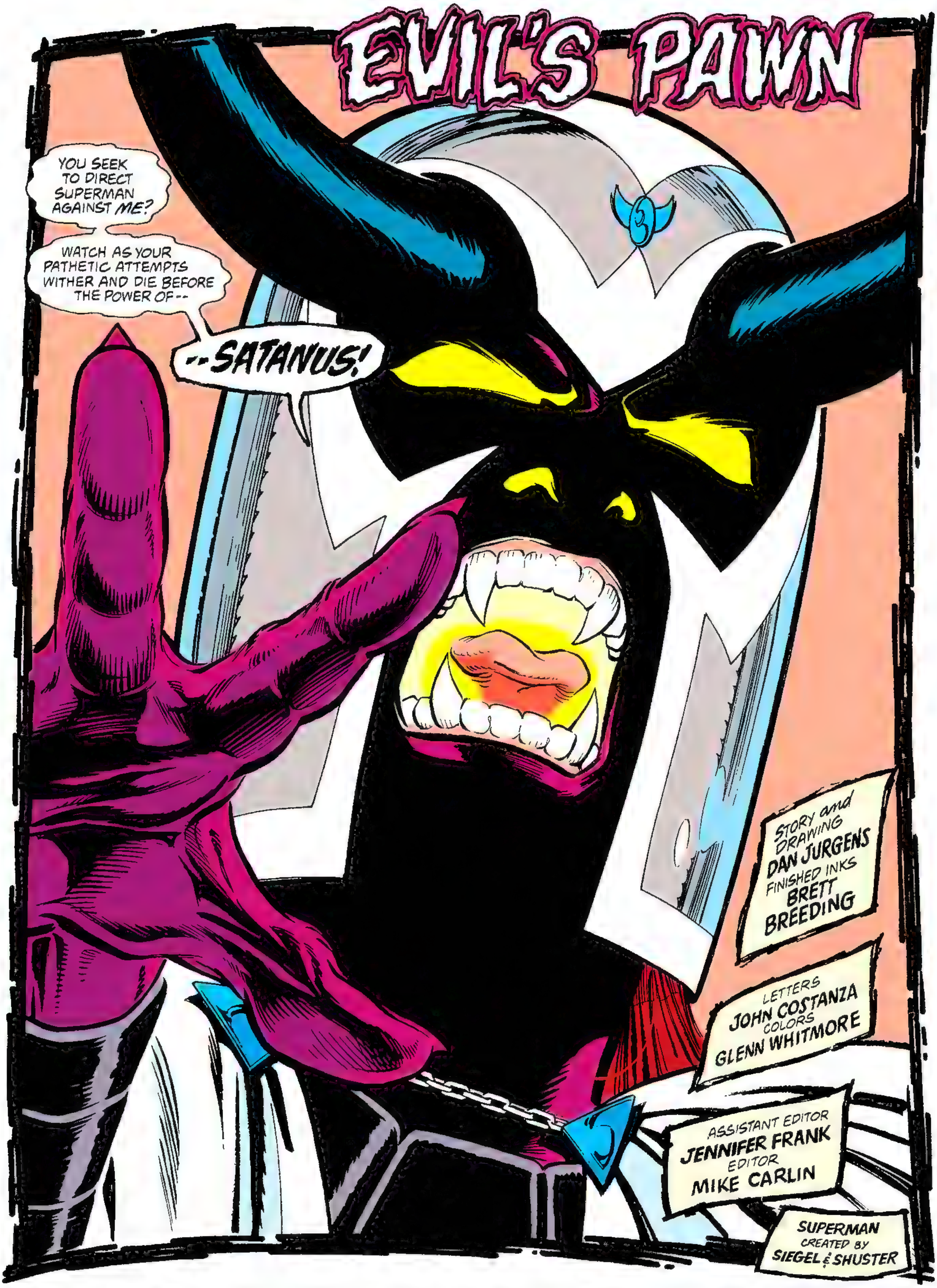
NEXT

THE MAN OF STEEL-- BLAZE'S NEW PAWN?! AS YOU LIVE AND BREATHE, DON'T MISS

SUPERMAN #71!

ON SALE NEXT WEEK IN A DIMENSION NEAR YOU!

EVIL'S PAWN


YOU SEEK TO DIRECT SUPERMAN AGAINST ME?
WATCH AS YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS WITHER AND DIE BEFORE THE POWER OF--
--SATANUS!
STORY and DRAWING DAN JURGENS
FINISHED INKS BRETT BREEDING
LETTERS JOHN COSTANZA
COLORS GLENN WHITMORE
ASSISTANT EDITOR JENNIFER FRANK
EDITOR MIKE CARLIN
SUPERMAN CREATED BY SIEGEL & SHUSTER

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NOT SO FAST, MY BROTHER. YOUR PAWN SEEKS TO ASSERT HIMSELF AGAINST BOTH OF US.
YOU CAN'T DICTATE TERMS TO ME!
I RECOMMEND YOU REMAIN ALIGNED WITH ME, SUPERMAN--
--OR THIS ONE CALLED FOSWELL DIES.

SHOULD HE BEST YOU, SATANUS, AND WIN BACK THE SOUL OF FOSWELL, THEN I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT THE SPOILS.

THE SOULS OF ALL THOSE OTHERS TRAPPED IN THIS DIMENSION WILL BE MINE!

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER I'LL SAVE FOSWELL--

--AND EVERYONE ELSE--

--EVEN IF I HAVE TO TAKE THE TWO OF YOU APART IN THE PROCESS!

REALLY, SUPERMAN... YOU BEHAVE AS THOUGH YOU HAVE A CHOICE IN THIS MATTER

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO RECOGNIZE YOU ARE NAUGHT BUT A WEAPON IN THE BLAZE-SATANUS WAR!

THIS IS MY FAULT!

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?

OH, I'M A WEAPON ALL RIGHT! BUT NOT ONE THAT ANYBODY CAN COMMAND!

WONNNNNDERFUL. I NEED NOT COMMAND YOU, SUPERMAN, TO HAVE YOU DO MY BIDDING, FIGHT MY FIGHT--

--AND GRANT TO ME FOREVER--

"--THE SOULS OF YOUR FRIENDS!"

HEY, CHIEF! I WOULDN'T'VE EXPECTED TO SEE YOU AND THE MISSUS *HERE!*

JIMMY, WE'RE NOT THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE THAT WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN TO.

I *DID* SEE MY SON... JERRY.

IT *COULDN'T* HAVE BEEN HIM... BUT RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO HELP THESE NEWS-TIME STAFFERS!

NO... WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO FIND JERRY! I SAW HIM, LOIS!

I ACTUALLY SAW MY *SON!*

ALICE, THERE *MUST BE* SOME OTHER EXPLANATION! YOUR SON PASSED AWAY MONTHS AGO!

UH...UH... CHIEF... I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO SOUND SPOOKY... BUT I THOUGHT *I* SAW A VISION OF JERRY A FEW HOURS AGO TOO!

ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS, OLSEN?

IT'S JUST NOT *POSSIBLE!*

NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE! *ESPECIALLY* THE FACT--

--THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO BE *ATTACKED* BY DEMONS!

:URRK!:

:URRK!:

:URRK!:

BLAZES

TALK ABOUT BEING ST*JCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE! NO MATTER WHAT I DO--

--I SIDE WITH *ONE* OF THESE MONSTERS! AND THAT MEANS I *LOSE!*

I WILL GET THEM *ALL* OUT OF HERE! JUST WATCH ME!

I TIRE OF YOUR OBSTINANCE!

YOUR EMPTY DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE ARE INSUFFERABLE!

THIS FARCE MUST *END!*

BECAUSE MY DARK SISTER, BLAZE, ALREADY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOUR DISTRACTING ACTIONS!

ATTACK, MY DEMONIC HORDE!

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF SOULS INSIDE THAT CHURCH--

THINK, KRYPTONIAN! ARE YOU TRULY PREPARED TO PAY *OVER ONE THOUSAND SOULS--*

--TO SAVE JUST *ONE?*

"--THAT SHALL NEVER SEE METROPOLIS AGAIN!"

RUN! RUN!

THE WHOLE CITY IS GOING UP IN SMOKE!

WE COULD ALL DISAPPEAR ANY SECOND-- JUST THE WAY THOSE BUILDINGS DID!

WE'RE LOSING CONTROL OF THIS SITUATION! ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO ASSIST US, SUPERGIRL?

AS YOU WISH, CAPTAIN SAWYER.

PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS, I ASK YOU TO LISTEN! WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT TWO BUILDINGS HAVE DISAPPEARED--

IT SEEMS THAT BLIND FEAR IS THE CULPRIT HERE!

--THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY MORE WILL VANISH! PLEASE REMAIN *CALM!*

WE ARE WORKING TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

AND HOPING THAT WE FIND EXACTLY WHERE SUPERMAN--

"--AND THOSE BUILDINGS HAVE GONE TO!"

I *CRAVE* THOSE *INNOCENTS*, MY DEMONS--

--AND I WOULD HAVE THEM ALL AS SERVANTS IN MY DOMAIN!

WE'RE IN TROUBLE *NOW*, GANG! THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE A BIG-TIME ATTACK!

LET'S BARRICADE THESE DOORS!

BUT... WHAT IF JERRY IS OUT THERE?

BEING THIS IS BLAZE'S WHACKO DIMENSION I S'POSE IT'S POSSIBLE, CHIEF!

BUT IF SHE CAN ACTUALLY BRING JERRY BACK--

"--THEN WHO KNOWS WHAT ALL SHE CAN DO?

THOSE FOOLS THINK THEY CAN DENY MY DEMONS ACCESS BY MERELY CLOSING THE DOORS?

PERHAPS I SHOULD DEMONSTRATE MY COMMAND OF THIS DIMENSION'S REALITY.

PERHAPS I SHOULD SHOW THEM--

--HOW MUCH THE POWER OF BLAZE CAN ACCOMPLISH!

CEASE YOUR DEFIANCE, MAN OF STEEL!

IT IS TIME WE *TALK.*

:UHN!:

POWERS... DON'T WORK... IN THIS WEIRD... MAGICAL PLACE!

CAN'T FLY! CAN'T--

SPLORTCH!

WHAT KIND OF GOOP IS *THIS?*

SO STICKY... SO STRONG... I CAN'T GET LOOSE!

IT IS TIME YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE NO *CHOICE* OR *INDEPENDENCE* HERE, MORTAL.

WRONG! I SWEAR I'LL--

SWEAR HERE AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO CONJURE UP HORRORS NONE OF US MAY BE EQUIPPED TO COPE WITH, BOY!

CHOOSE NOW! DO YOU SERVE BLAZE *OR* SATANUS?

NEITHER!

CRETIN! DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT BY DISTRACTING ME YOU MAY HAVE HANDED MY SISTER *VICTORY*?

LOOK!

ARRARR!

NO--! I HAD NO IDEA SHE COULD DO *THAT!*

BLAZE

WHERE ONCE YOU WERE A MULTITUDE, YOU ARE NOW *ONE*, MY DEMON ARMY!

I ORDER YOU TO DO MY BIDDING!

DESTROY THE INNOCENTS' SANCTUARY! BRING ME THEIR BONES!

SHE'LL DO IT, YOU KNOW. SHE'LL FEAST ON YOUR FRIENDS... THEIR FLESH... THEIR SOULS!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?

IS YOUR INDEPENDENCE WORTH SO MUCH?

HE'S GOT ME AND HE KNOWS IT!

BUT-- HOW DO I GIVE IN TO AN EVIL LIKE SATANUS?

ORRUK!

HOLD YOUR ATTACK FOR THE MOMENT, UNDERLING.

I THINK I SHALL VISIT MY SLAVES-TO-BE--

--AND SAVOR THEIR TERROR AS THEY FACE DEATH!

THIS IS IT, FOLKS! THIS PLACE IS CAVING IN BIG-TIME!

STICK CLOSE TO THE WALLS, PEOPLE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

WHAT ABOUT JERRY? WE CAN'T HAVE COME THIS CLOSE ONLY TO *LOSE* HIM!

LOOK, ALICE, YOU HAVE TO FACE FACTS! IT *CAN'T* BE TRUE! OUR SON CAN'T POSSIBLY BE--

--HERE?

IT'S *HER!* SHE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED JERRY, CHIEF!

AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO ANY COLLECTION... YOUNG MISTER WHITE WAS.

WAIT--IF THIS PLACE IS MAGICAL MAYBE OUR BOY *COULD* BE ALIVE?!

HE MUST BE! SHOW ME WHERE MY SON IS! I *BEG* YOU TO GIVE ME MY *JERRY!*

OH, I CAN GIVE HIM TO YOU ALL RIGHT.

OBSERVE.

SWEET MOTHER...

A HANDSOME BOY, WOULDN'T YOU SAY? THE VERY EPITOME OF LIFE!

TRUST ME WHEN I SAY--

--HE'S MINE, BODY AND SOUL!

JERRY! YOU'RE ALIVE! Y...YOU'RE--

--FADING? NOTHING BUT SMOKE?

HOW CAN YOU TORTURE US THIS WAY? HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL?

GIVE US OUR SON!

OH, SMARTEN UP! YOUR SON IS QUITE DEAD! I MERELY CONJURED SEVERAL VISIONS OF HIM BACK IN METROPOLIS--

--IN ORDER TO COAX YOU ALL HERE INTO THE LINE OF FIRE!

YOU HEARTLESS, EVIL FILTH! HOW DARE YOU USE MY BOY TO--

YOUR BOY? I SENSE NO TRUE GENETIC CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND HIM.

COULD IT BE THAT YOUR LITTLE WIFE'S FLESH PROVED WEAK ON OCCASION?

YOU REALLY ARE THE SPAWN OF THE DEVIL, AREN'T YOU?

CLOSE ENOUGH, CHUBS. AND I PLAN TO CLAIM YOUR SOUL FOR AN ETERNITY--

--JUST AS I'VE CLAIMED THAT OF MRS. WHITE'S SON!

WHEN THIS DAY IS DONE I SHALL STAND THE INDISPUTABLE VICTOR--

"--OVER MY BROTHER!"

MY SISTER IS MOMENTS AWAY FROM TAKING YOUR FRIENDS, SUPERMAN!

YOUR DECISION?

YOU *WIN!* LET ME *LOOSE!*

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, SUPERMAN. I'M NOT WORTH ALL THOSE LIVES.

IT WAS MY STUPIDITY THAT LANDED US ALL IN THIS MESS.

I GUESS... I GUESS I DESERVE TO DIE.

HANG IN THERE, FOSWELL! THIS ISN'T OVER YET!

OH, YES, IT IS. THE FOSGOYLE IS *MINE* NOW!

WHO--?

FOSWELL!

WE'RE NOT YOUR PUPPETS!

EVENTUALLY I'LL TAKE YOU *DOWN!*

HOLLOW BOASTS. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED.

WE'LL DISPUTE THAT LATER. RIGHT NOW WE HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS TO SOLVE!

YOU'RE TELLING ME! WITHOUT MY POWERS--

MY SISTER'S DEMON FORCE! IN THIS REALM IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT!

-- THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO AGAINST A CREATURE THE SIZE OF A BUILDING!

TRUE. BUT, JUST AS I HAVE DELIVERED US HERE, I HAVE *OTHER* POWERS AT MY DISPOSAL.

THERE IS A BELL IN THAT CHURCH TOWER, SUPERMAN.

I NEED YOU TO RING IT--

--WHILE WE ATTACK IN A MORE DIRECT FASHION.

DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD RINGING A BELL WILL DO BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY SATANUS'S PLAYGROUND!

AND HE'S MAKING UP THE RULES!

MUCH AS IT PAINS ME... I HAVE TO TRUST HIM!

CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S COME TO THIS.

AFTER ALL THE GOOD I'VE TRIED TO DO OVER THE YEARS--

--I'VE ALLIED MYSELF WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF!

EXCELLENT!

THE SOUND IS AS CLEAR AND SHARP AS IT NEEDS TO BE.

THIS IS ONE COURSE OF EVENTS YOU NEVER ANTICIPATED, SISTER DEAR!

BONNG BONNG BONNG BONNG

WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S RINGING THE BELLS!

BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE DO SUCH A--

NO!

A CLEVER MANEUVER BUT ONE I SHALL NOT ALLOW!

SHE'S GONE! MAYBE IT'S CLARK RINGING THE BELLS!

HE HAS BEEN MISSING THIS WHOLE TIME!

WOOSH

WELL DONE, SUPERMAN!

BONGBONGBONGBONG

CONTINUE RINGING THAT BELL WHILE I CHANNEL ITS RESONATING VIBRATIONS--

--INTO A POWERFUL, CONTINUOUS BLAST--

BONG BONG BONG BONG

--DIRECTED AT THE VERY CORE OF MY SISTER'S HEINOUS CREATION!

CAN'T BELIEVE HOW USELESS I FEEL! WITH MY POWERS SAPPED BY THIS MAGICAL DIMENSION--

--I'M STUCK RINGING THIS BELL WHILE OTHERS TAKE CARE OF THE REAL ACTION!

FRANKLY, SUPERMAN--

--I HATE TO SEE ANYONE MISS OUT ON ANY ACTION!

ARRRGH!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF SAM HILL IS GOING ON UP HERE? WHA--? SUPERMAN!

PERRY... I... NEED YOUR HELP.

RING THE BELL AND KEEP RINGING IT UNTIL... I CAN TAKE OVER.

YOU GOT IT, SUPERMAN! I--

NO.

FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYONE HERE-- RING THE BELL!

YAAHH!

SORRY, SUPERMAN, BUT THAT WITCH... IS.TOO...STRONG.

I TRIED... BUT SHE GOT ME.

JUST...THE WAY SHE GOT JERRY.

TOOK HIS LIFE... KILLED HIM...

NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO TELL JERRY... HOW MUCH I LOVED HIM.

MAYBE I SCREWED UP A LOT AS A FATHER!

BUT TODAY... IF HE'S WATCHING...

MAYBE I CAN FINALLY MAKE HIM *PROUD!*

SO BE IT.

THEN YOU SHALL DIE RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

THINK AGAIN, WITCH!

YOU CAN STILL *MOVE?*

BONNG

BY ALL THAT'S HOLY--

--THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, SON!

THE BELL FUELS MY FURY ONCE AGAIN!

ENABLING ME AT LAST TO DEAL THE *DEATH BLOW!*

CHOOM!

SUCCESS! THE ENERGIES RELEASED WERE SO POWERFUL THEY RIPPED A PORTHOLE DIRECTLY THROUGH TO EARTH!

AIEEE! IT *CAN'T* BE! I *REFUSE* TO ADMIT DEFEAT!

TOO LATE, BLAZE!

THE SHOCK WAVES ARE SO STRONG THEY'RE PUSHING US FAR AWAY FROM THE EXIT POINT!

THE PAIN... *UNBEARABLE*... MUST ESCAPE THROUGH TEAR IN SPACE...OR *ABANDON* THIS FORM YET AGAIN!

I MIGHT NOT GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS DIMENSION, BLAZE--

--*BUT* NEITHER WILL YOU!

AAAAARRGH!

AND MY FRIENDS--

"--WILL AT LEAST GET HOME!"

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

IT WOULD APPEAR, MAGGIE SAWYER--

--THAT OUR MISSING BUILDINGS HAVE ALL RETURNED!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE? WHERE ARE THEY?

THEY'RE DOWN HERE, SUPERGIRL! AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS--

--I'D SAY THEY'RE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE!

SO, I AGAIN FIND MYSELF IN THE REALM OF THE LIVING.

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

SOON AS I GET CLEANED UP I'M GOING OUT FOR THE BIGGEST MALTED MONEY CAN BUY!

THIS PLACE IS NOT FOR ME. I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN? HE WAS LEFT BEHIND!

HE IS NO LONGER MY CONCERN. HE WILL HAVE TO SURVIVE ON HIS OWN.

UNFORTUNATELY... OUR SON'S SURVIVAL REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THAT SHE-DEVIL!

WAS IT TRUE WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT HIS SOUL?

REST ASSURED. NEITHER I NOR MY SISTER CLAIM YOUR SON.

HIS SOUL LIVES IN A PLACE YOU WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FAVOR.

FOOOSH

HIGH ABOVE THE CITY--

-- IN THE EMPTY OFFICES OF THE MAGICALLY RESTORED NEWSTIME BUILDING--

--A GLOW OF EVIL LIGHTS A SMALL RECEPTION AREA.

FOOOSH

YOU. NOW THAT YOUR SOUL IS MINE I GRANT YOU YOUR TRUE FORM.

TH-THANK YOU! I HADN'T EXPECTED SUCH A KIND--

QUIET.

I DO THIS FOR MY OWN BENEFIT. SOMEDAY I MAY HAVE NEED OF YOUR EARTHLY SELF. FOR NOW--

--BE GONE!

YES, SIR!

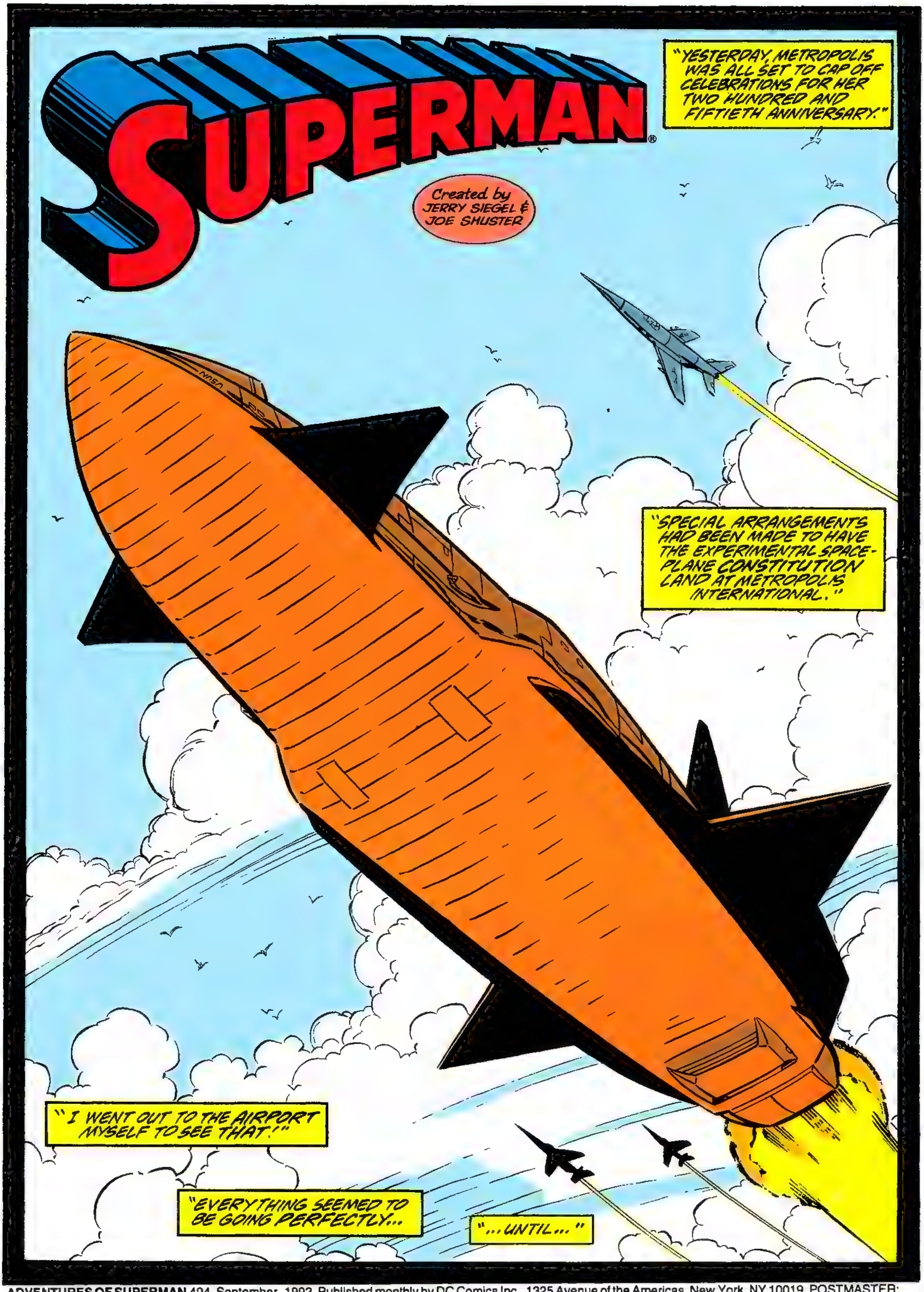
THOUGH VICTORY IS MINE, THE WAR BETWEEN MY SISTER AND ME CONTINUES.

NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE GAINED A LOYAL SERVANT THIS DAY AND PROTECTED THE GREATEST SECRET OF ALL.

NOT SUPERMAN, OR FOSWELL, OR ANY OF THE REST SUSPECT THAT SATANUS--

--WALKS THE EARTH AS COLLIN THORNTON!

DEFINITELY NOT-- THE END!


SUPERMAN®
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"YESTERDAY, METROPOLIS WAS ALL SET TO CAP OFF CELEBRATIONS FOR HER TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY."
"SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO HAVE THE EXPERIMENTAL SPACE-PLANE CONSTITUTION LAND AT METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL."
"I WENT OUT TO THE AIRPORT MYSELF TO SEE THAT!"
"EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING PERFECTLY...
"...UNTIL..."

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"...A SMALL CIVILIAN PLANE WITH ENGINE TROUBLE VEERED INTO CONSTITUTION'S AIR-SPACE."

"IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST, THAT EVEN I WASN'T SURE OF WHAT WE WERE ALL SEEING."

"SUDDENLY, THE TWO PLANES WERE LOCKED TOGETHER, PLUNGING RAPIDLY TOWARD THE GROUND."

"ALMOST AS A SINGLE BEING, THE CROWD SURGED--SHOUTING, YELLING--PANIC RAGING THROUGH THEM."

"IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TORRENT OF HUMANITY, FATE BECKONED ME THAT DAY..."

"...BUT FATE'S CALL WENT UNANSWERED."

"METROPOLIS'S ANNIVERSARY WOULD FOREVER BE REMEMBERED..."

"...AS THE DAY THAT THE CONSTITUTION CRASHED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS, KILLING ALL THOSE ONBOARD."

"AMONG THE DEAD WAS THE STAR REPORTER OF THE DAILY PLANET--LOIS LANE."

"FROM THAT DAY ON, I VOWED TO DEVOTE MY POWERS TOWARD PREVENTING TRAGEDIES SUCH AS THIS!"

"NO-NO! THAT'S ALL WRONG!"

Daily Planet

SPACE PLANE DISASTER

Kismet.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

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ALBERT T. DE GUZMAN-LETTERER * GLENN WHITMORE-COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK-ASSISTANT EDITOR * MIKE CARLIN-OMNIPOTENT OVERSEER

I SAVED THOSE PLANES-- NO ONE DIED...

...ESPECIALLY NOT LOIS!

NO, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT WAY...

...BUT IT COULD HAVE.

WHERE IN BLAZES AM I?

MY CLOTHES... BACK TO NORMAL?

AM I HALLUCINATING?

PERHAPS. THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS NOT.

WHO SAID THAT?

I DID.

OKAY, OKAY-- THINK, CLARK-- WHAT'S THE LAST THING I REMEMBER?

I WAS WITH BLAZE AND HER BROTHER SATANUS, TRAPPED IN SOME KIND OF ODD DIMENSION.

"I HELPED RESTRAIN BLAZE, WHILE SATANUS SOMEHOW CHANNELED ARCANE ENERGIES AT BLAZE'S DEMON HORDE..."

"...CAUSING A MASSIVE EXPLOSION, WHICH TORE BLAZE TO PIECES..."

"...AND SENT THE REST OF US REELING!"

I CAN BREATHE HERE, LIKE I COULD WHEN I WAS WITH SATANUS, SO I'LL ASSUME THIS ISN'T DEEP SPACE.

I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

HOLY--! MY FLIGHT POWERS AREN'T WORKING!

I'M ON A COLLISION COURSE...

=UGHNNFF=

I ADVISE YOU TO REMAIN IN ONE PLACE, TO AVOID INJURY.

THAT VOICE AGAIN--COMING FROM EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!

IS THAT A THREAT? SHOW YOURSELF TO ME!

I AM ALL AROUND YOU.

TELESCOPIC VISION'S STILL SCREWY, LIKE IT WAS IN THAT OTHER DIMENSION!

BLAZE AND SATANUS COULD STILL BE TOYING WITH ME!

WITH THE INFLUENCE AND POWER THEY WIELD, HOW CAN I BE SURE THEY HAVEN'T TAINTED EVERY DECISION I'VE EVER MADE?

LOOK AT THE WAY SAM FOSWELL WAS *MANIPULATED* BY *BLAZE!*

SHE EVEN MANAGED TO *TRANSFORM* THE POOR GUY INTO A *MONSTER*, TO DO HER BIDDING! *

* IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, THESE EVENTS TRANSPIRED IN LAST MONTH'S FOUR SUPERMAN TITLES!

IT'S EVEN *POSSIBLE* THAT BLAZE COULD HAVE ORCHESTRATED FOSWELL'S *PROMOTION* TO DAILY PLANET MANAGING EDITOR...

...AND THEN HIS SUBSEQUENT *FIRING*, WHICH LED TO HIS *SUICIDE* ATTEMPT!

IS THERE A FORCE EVEN BIGGER THAN BLAZE, *CONTROLLING* MY *CHOICES*?

NOT CONTROLLING...

...BUT INSTEAD--GUIDING YOUR CHOICES.

THIS IS *CRAZY*! SHOW YOURSELF!

YOU REQUIRE A PHYSICAL PRESENCE TO CONVERSE WITH?

WHAT, OR WHO--?

I AM ALL THAT IS AROUND YOU.

CALL ME FATE--DESTINY--KISMET.

DO YOU PREFER THIS?

UHHHH-- OKAY.

ARE YOU TRAPPED IN THIS PLACE LIKE ME?

DO YOU NOT COMPREHEND?

I AM THIS "PLACE."

OH.

LET ME ENLIGHTEN YOU AS TO MY POSITION IN THE WAY OF THINGS...

THE LORDS OF ORDER, AND THE LORDS OF CHAOS ARE UNIVERSAL FORCES, LOCKED IN CONSTANT STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL...

...GOOD AGAINST EVIL--LIGHT AGAINST DARK.

THERE EXIST AGENTS IN EACH CAUSE, SOME OF THEM KNOWN TO YOU.

DOCTOR FATE--THE SPECTRE--THE PHANTOM STRANGER?

KISMET EXISTS BETWEEN DARK AND LIGHT, ILLUMINATING THE PATHWAYS TO BOTH.

THE CHOICE BELONGS TO THOSE AT THE CROSSROADS. DO YOU GRASP THIS CONCEPT?

I--THINK I DO--BUT EVERY CHOICE ISN'T CLEARLY MARKED AS BLACK AND WHITE.

THERE ARE SHADES OF GREY EVERYWHERE--GOOD CAN COME OF A BAD CHOICE, JUST AS BAD CAN COME FROM A GOOD CHOICE.

I DO NOT JUDGE--I MERELY OFFER THE CHOICE.

I'VE DEVOTED MY ABILITIES TO THE CAUSE OF GOOD, KISMET...

I HAVE A HARD TIME RECONCILING THAT I'VE BEEN USED BY THE LIKES OF DEMONS!

WOULD MY FRIEND SAM FOSWELL HAVE BEEN SPARED HIS FATE, HAD I NOT RESCUED HIM FROM HIS SUICIDE ATTEMPT?

THE MAN FOSWELL CHOSE HIS PATH BEFORE YOUR RESCUE.

YOUR ACTION TOOK HIM DOWN OTHER ROADS WHICH OFFERED HIM WHAT YOU WOULD CALL REDEMPTION.

I WAS TAUGHT THE TENETS OF RELIGION BY MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS, AS A CHILD...

THAT IS WHERE MUCH OF MY CONCEPTS OF RIGHT AND WRONG WERE FORMED.

THOSE CONCEPTS ARE SHAKEN WITH EVERY ENCOUNTER I HAVE WITH A SO-CALLED GREATER BEING!

DO YOU QUESTION THE PATH YOU CHOSE, OR THE EFFORT EXPENDED TO STAY TRUE TO YOUR PATH?

BOTH.

"NO ONE EVENT CHALLENGED YOUR BELIEFS LIKE THAT WHICH OCCURRED ON THAT ALTERNATE EARTH.

"THE ENTIRE PLANET WAS DEVASTATED BY THREE SUPERHUMAN BEINGS. AND THE TASK OF STOPPING THEM FELL TO YOU..."

FOOL!

YOU WASTE TIME GAPING... AND FOR THAT YOU'LL DIE!

:UGHHNN!:

"QUEX-UL WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KILL ME!

"LUCKILY MY X-RAY VISION REVEALED A CANISTER OF KRYPTONITE LYING AMID THE RUBBLE OF THIS LAB!

"WITH QUEX-UL NOW POWERLESS TO STOP ME, I GATHERED UP THE OTHER TWO MONSTERS, ZOD AND ZAORA, IN LIKE FASHION...

"...AND PASSED JUDGMENT ON THEM FOR THE DEATHS OF FIVE BILLION HUMANS WHO USED TO LIVE ON THIS EARTH."

"THEY PLEADED FOR MERCY. YET THEY SHOWED THEIR VICTIMS NO MERCY."

DON'T--IT'S MURDER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ZOD--I CAN'T DO IT...

AHHHHHHHH

YOU PATHETIC IDIOT! YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED US WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!

LET US THANK HIM FOR HIS KINDNESS--BY MAKING *HIS* DEATH *SLOW* AND *PAINFUL*!

NO... QUICKLY, ZOD--FOR I YEARN TO FIND *NEW WORLDS* TO *ANNIHILATE*!

SO BE IT, QUEX-UL--SUPERMAN IS DEAD!

"THAT'S NOT HOW IT WENT DOWN, KISMET!"

"I WAS DECISIVE IN THAT MOMENT."

"I PLAYED JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER TO THOSE THREE RENEGADES...

"...AND BURIED THEM ON THAT BURNT-OUT HUSK OF A PLANET."

"I DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, AND, THANKS TO A LOT OF SOUL-SEARCHING, I'VE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH MY DECISION."

"WITH EVERY FOE I'VE FACED SINCE THEN, I AM REMINDED OF MY *VOW* TO PRESERVE LIFE--NOT TAKE IT."

WAS I WRONG TO KILL THOSE VILLAINS?

WAS I RIGHT, FOR THE WRONG REASONS, OR WRONG, FOR THE RIGHT REASONS?

EITHER WAY-- I TRIED TO GROW FROM THE EXPERIENCE.

IT IS AS I HAVE TRIED TO IMPART TO YOU--YOU ARE NEVER THE ONLY FORCE PRESENT IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

LOOK, I'M NOT STUPID--I'VE HEARD YOUR MESSAGE!

HAVE YOU?

I'M SICK OF THIS "SOUL-SEARCH," KISMET! LET ME GO, TO REJOIN MY FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES!

YOU CRIED OUT FOR HELP, AND THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE...

...MANY SIGNIFICANT EVENTS LEFT TO REVIEW...

NO! NO MORE!

YOU PONDERED "WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN," AND I AM OBLIGED TO SHOW YOU.

WITNESS A TIME DURING YOUR ADOLESCENCE...

"... IN YOUR HOMETOWN OF SMALLVILLE..."

I'LL DRIVE!

MAYBE I SHOULD...

NOBODY DRIVES THE MUSTANG BUT ME, CLARKIE!

'SIDES, I NOTICED YOU FILLIN' UP AT THE KEG TOO, KENT!

SCOTT'S RIGHT, CLARK-- YOU, ME AND LANA HAVE ALL BEEN DRINKING!

AWWW, LIGHTEN UP--THIS AIN'T NO CHURCH SOCIAL!

ARE YOU SISSIES READY TO MOVE UP FROM BEER--TO SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE MORE KICK?

GEE-- I DON'T KNOW, SCOTT.

I'M NOT INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF--

SCOTT! LOOK OUT!

"THAT MOVING VAN HIT US. WE LOST CONTROL OF THE CAR, AND ENDED UP WRAPPED AROUND A TREE!"

"APPARENTLY MY SUPER-POWERS HAD BEGUN TO MANIFEST THEMSELVES, BECAUSE I WALKED AWAY WITHOUT A SCRATCH."

"PETE ROSS AND LANA LANG RECOVERED FROM THEIR INJURIES, BUT THE DRIVER OF OUR CAR WASN'T SO FORTUNATE."

"SCOTT BRUBAKER, STAR OF SMALLVILLE HIGH'S FOOTBALL TEAM, SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN A COMA!"

"NONE OF US SHOULD HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE WHEEL THAT NIGHT--I KNOW THAT NOW!"

"I SHOULD HAVE SWALLOWED HARD, AND CALLED PA TO COME PICK US UP!"

"THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT FOR SCOTT."

SPORTS

SCORES

GRID STAR PICKED IN NFL DRAFT

Scott Brubaker

METROPOLIS UPSET

AND PERHAPS HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SAME RISK ON ANOTHER DAY, WITH WORSE CONSEQUENCES.

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME, WITHOUT THE ACCIDENT AS A LESSON TO YOU.

MA AND PA REALLY DRILLED ME ON RESPONSIBILITY AFTER THE CRASH, AND THEIR LECTURE STUCK WITH ME!

WOULD THEIR WORDS HAVE HAD THE SAME WEIGHT, WITHOUT SCOTT BRUBAKER'S TRAGIC EXAMPLE?

AT THAT TIME, BEFORE YOU BECAME WHO YOU ARE, YOU WERE BUT ONE FORCE AMONG MANY.

NOW, YOUR EVERYDAY EXISTENCE INFLUENCES THE CHOICES OF THE MASSES.

THAT BUGS ME! SOMEONE MANIPULATES ME, AND, IN ESSENCE, THEY'RE MANIPULATING EVERYONE I INTERACT WITH!

YOUR CONCERN IS FOR THOSE CLOSE TO YOU?

"YOU BET IT IS! THE THING IS, AS SUPERMAN, I HAVE TO BE CONCERNED OVER EVERYONE EQUALLY...

"...BUT IN MY PRIVATE LIFE, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TO ME!

"MY FOLKS, OF COURSE, HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN ABOUT MY LIFE AS SUPERMAN...

"...BUT RECENTLY I BROUGHT SOMEONE NEW INTO THIS CIRCLE.

"WHAT IF THAT DECISION WASN'T ENTIRELY MY OWN?

"I DO LOVE THIS WOMAN, BUT HOW DO I KNOW I WASN'T 'PUSHED' A LITTLE BIT, IN ORDER TO EXPOSE MY PRIVATE LIFE?

"I HATE TO THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES, KISMET!"

"THESE SCENARIOS NEED NOT COME TO PASS."

"SHE'D BE VULNERABLE TO RETRIBUTION FROM ANY ONE OF MY ENEMIES.

"EVEN IF NONE OF THAT STUFF HAPPENS..."

"...SHE COULD FACE RISKS THAT NORMAL WIVES NEVER WOULD!"

'BABY KICKED-- THE MOTHER'S HEMORRHAGING BADLY!

MY GOD-- WHAT--?

AT THE ONSET OF MY CAREER AS A PROTECTOR, I TOLD SOMEONE I LOVED THAT AS A SUPERMAN I BELONGED TO THE WORLD...

...NOT TO ANY ONE PERSON.

MAYBE I WAS RIGHT--MAYBE I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT ANYONE ELSE INTO MY LIFE!

AND PERHAPS THOSE WERE MERELY THE WORDS OF A YOUNG MAN WHO HAD NOT YET FOUND HIS WAY...

...HIS PLACE IN THE WAY OF THINGS.

YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS, AND YET YOU ARE STILL BUT A MAN...

...SHARING MANY OF THE FRAILTIES OF THOSE WHOM YOU SEEK TO PROTECT.

LET ME PLAY OUT ONE FINAL TABLEAU...

PLEASE-- I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

"IMAGINE A DAY WHEN YOU'D MASTERED THOSE HUMAN FRAILTIES...

"... LEAVING ONLY THE COOL LOGIC OF YOUR KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE!"

DAY IN AND DAY OUT WE SUPERHEROES FIGHT *INJUSTICE*, YET THINGS DON'T CHANGE!

GIVE UP YOUR FIGHT, FLASH--! MARVEL! JOIN *ME* IN MY *CRUSADE!*

YOUR "CRUSADE" IS NOTHING MORE THAN *FASCISM*, SUPERMAN!

WE'LL *STOP* YOU, OR *DIE* TRYING!

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS..."

"...AS OF THIS DAY, ALL OF YOUR COUNTRIES SHALL ACKNOWLEDGE *ME* AS THEIR *RULER*.

ALL *HOSTILITIES* BETWEEN NATIONS WILL *CEASE* IMMEDIATELY.

ALL LAND DISPUTES WILL BE HEARD BY *ME* ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND MY JUDGMENT SHALL BE *FINAL*.

"I WILL ALSO INITIATE A FULL-SCALE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, AND ALL NATIONS WILL COMPLY!

"MY RULE WILL BE FIRM, BUT JUST, AND COMPLIANCE WILL GUARANTEE A DIGNIFIED STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL.

"CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURES WILL BE REBUILT, PEOPLE WILL SEE THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS..."

Kryptonopolis Plan

SUPERMAN VO
WORLD PEAC

NEW KANDOR CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE

FUEL-LESS AUTO DEVELOPED

"...AND WITH LOIS AT MY SIDE, ALL WILL BE RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.

"THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN, KISMET!"

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

PROBABILITY IS NOT MINE TO PONDER.

LOOK, THESE LESSONS ON WHAT *MIGHT* HAVE BEEN *ARE* INTERESTING AND ALL...

...BUT I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE YOU AND ALL OF THIS ISN'T JUST A *DREAM*, OR HALLUCINATION!

MAYBE I'M *REALLY* JUST BACK HOME, IN BED. HAVING A *NIGHTMARE*.

OR ARE YOU FLOATING UNCONSCIOUS IN DEEP SPACE, IN THE THROES OF OXYGEN DEPRIVATION?

PERHAPS IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE FINISH?

I STILL HAVE *DOUBTS*. DAMN YOU!

WHAT IF I HESITATE THE NEXT TIME I COME ACROSS A DROWNING MAN? A SUICIDE? AN ACCIDENT ABOUT TO HAPPEN?

DO I THINK OF SAM FOSWELL, AND WONDER IF SOME *OTHER* OMNIPOTENT BEING IS PULLING THE STRINGS?

ANSWER ME, BLAST YOU!

THE ANSWER IS NOT IN ME...

"...THE ANSWER IS IN YOU. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN."

"I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE THE CORRECT CHOICE."

HEY, I'M BACK ON EARTH! I REALLY WAS IN THE HANDS OF FATE--

--OR WAS I? WHAT IF THIS IS ANOTHER ALTERNATE FUTURE SCENARIO?

IS KISMET TESTING ME, STILL?

LITTLE BUNNY FOO-FOO, JUMPING THROUGH THE FOREST...

HON--IS THAT US 1 UP AHEAD AT THE INTERSECTION?

...SCOOPING UP THE FIELD-MICE AND BOPPING THEM ON THE HEAD!'

IT'S NOT CLEARLY MARKED.

LET ME HAVE A--

LOOK OUT, DADDY!

DARN IT, CAL, I CAN'T SEE!

SIRENS! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

YAY, SUPERMAN!

WHOOOOOOAHHH, I'M GOING TO BE SICK!

OH, MANNY-- TALK ABOUT FATE--!

HOLD ON, TOMMY-- WE'RE HOME FREE!

AAAROOOO ARRROO

U DRIVE

NOT QUITE, FELLAS.

OUR TIRES! I'M LOSIN' IT!

HE MELTED MY TIRES! THOSE WERE TWO HUNDRED BUCKS EACH!

D-D-D-ON'T SH-SH-SHOOT.

KEEP THEM IN THE AIR, SPEED RACER! YOU BOYS LATE FOR YOUR OWN FUNERAL?

SUPERMAN--?

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES! WE'RE AWFUL LUCKY YOU WERE AROUND, HUH?

LUCK? NO, YOU MIGHT CALL IT KISMET, THOUGH.

THANK YOU, KISMET. IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.

NEXT WEEK IN ACTION #681: THE RETURN OF RAMPAGE!

NEXT MONTH, IN THESE PAGES-- THE FOREVER PEOPLE!

NEED WE SAY MORE? DIDN'T THINK SO!

...STILL NO OFFICIAL WORD ON WHAT HAPPENED DOWNTOWN, BUT WE DO HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE NEWSTIME BUILDING IS STILL IN ONE PLACE.

HERE WITH A REPORT IS METROPOLIS'S OWN EYE-IN-THE-SKY, ART BAILEY IN THE Q-96 TRAFFIC 'COPTER...

ANN, POLICE STILL HAVE 23RD AND 24TH STREETS CLOSED FROM BESSOLO TO COLLYER, SO COMMUTERS SHOULD AVOID; KLIK!;

GLAD I TOOK THE AFTERNOON OFF. TRAFFIC'S CRAZY ENOUGH WITHOUT--!

@#%*!! JUST LOOK AT THIS LOUSY WASH-AND-WAX JOB! NO ONE WANTS TO EARN THEIR PAY ANYMORE!

NOT TRUE, MARKHAM!

?

WH-WHO SAID THAT?!

COME NOW, GEORGE... HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN THE VOICE OF THE HELLGRAMMITE?

OMIGOD, G-GET AWAY FROM ME!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
JACKSON & DENIS - ARTISTS
GUICE & RODIER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK - ASSISTANT ED.
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY SIEGEL & SHUSTER

AS YOU WISH!

NOW YOU SEE ME... NOW YOU DON'T!

BUT I STILL SEE YOU, GEORGE!

W-W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I ONLY WISH TO FULFILL MY CONTRACT... TO *ELIMINATE* YOUNG LEX LUTHOR FOR YOU!

SHHH! FOR PITY'S SAKE, KEEP IT DOWN!

DON'T WORRY, MARKHAM. WE'RE ALONE. THERE'S NO ONE TO HEAR.

BUT WE NEED TO... *RENEGOTIATE*. THIS JOB HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT THAN I ANTICIPATED.

Y-YOU WANT *MORE* MONEY? I ALREADY ADVANCED YOU *FIVE MILLION!*

MORE THAN CASH, I NEED SPECIAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT... TO MAINTAIN MY POWER.

I SUFFERED UNSPEAKABLE PAIN AND INJURY WHEN THAT SUPERMAN THWARTED MY FIRST ATTACK ON LUTHOR...*

...IT TOOK DAYS-- *DAYS!*-- TO REGENERATE THE END OF MY TAIL!

WHERE *IS* HE?!

*IN ISSUE #676.

LEXCORP POSSESSES MANY ADVANCED BIO-GENETICS LABORATORIES, MARKHAM... I NEED ACCESS TO ONE OF THOSE FACILITIES.

I-I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE. I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY--!

YOU'RE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. GET IT!

YOU'RE *CRAZY!* I *CAN'T*-- NOT WHILE LUTHOR'S STILL ALIVE! TOO MANY QUESTIONS WOULD BE ASKED!

IT'D BE EASIER FOR ME TO RAISE MORE MONEY!

THEN YOU'D BEST DO SO! MY PRICE JUST *DOUBLED!*

AND MARKHAM--?

GYAHHH!

IN THE FUTURE... DON'T *EVER* CALL ME CRAZY!

Odds & Ends

NEWSTIME

SUPERMAN--YOU'RE BACK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHEN YOU DIDN'T RETURN WITH THE OTHERS--!

IT'S OKAY, SUPERGIRL. I'M... JUST A LITTLE *SORE*, THAT'S ALL.

BUT... WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

THE LI'L LADY GAVE US A BIG HAND, SUPERMAN--

--TRYIN' TO BUST THROUGH THOSE *FORCE-SHIELDS* OR WHATEVER THEY WERE THAT'D LATCHED ONTO THE BUILDING!

GLAD TO SEE YA, THOUGH... 'CORDING TO THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH IT, YOU WERE CAUGHT UP IN A BATTLE WITH A "*SHE-DEVIL*" IN SOME OTHER DIMENSION OR SOMETHING.

THEY'D CREDITED YOU WITH SAVIN' THEIR HIDES! BUT NO ONE KNEW WHERE YOU'D GONE... AN' THAT *HORN-HEADED* GUY DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE!

"HORN-HEADED"... *SATANUS?* HE WAS *HERE?*

YEAH, BUT NOT FOR LONG. HIM AND SOME *UGLY CUSS* DISAPPEARED IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!

WE WERE *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU! ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

I'M *FINE*... REALLY. I WAS... JUST LOST FOR A LITTLE WHILE. BUT I'M BACK NOW...

...BACK TO NORMAL.

SUPERMAN!

BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!

YOU GOTTA HELP US! MR. KENT'S STILL MISSING!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT CLARK KENT, JIMMY! I'VE SCANNED THE WHOLE BUILDING AND HE'S NOT THERE... I DOUBT THAT HE WAS EVER THERE!

B-BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOUR X-RAY VISION WAS ALL MESSED UP EARLIER--!

IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY NOW.

YOU'RE SURE--?

YES, LOIS. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--!

CAPTAIN SAWYER!! CAN I GIVE YOU MY REPORT LATER?

SURE, SUPERMAN... WE HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL!

BUT--!

IT'S OKAY, JIMMY... YOU KNOW WE CAN TRUST SUPER-MAN.

WELL, YEAH, BUT... GEEZ, WHY IS EVERY-ONE TAKING THIS SO CALMLY? CLARK SET OUT FOR NEWSTIME BEFORE WE DID--

--I DON'T SEE HOW HE COULD'VE ESCAPED BEING... I MEAN...

WE JUST HAVE TO HAVE FAITH, JIMMY...

...CLARK'S ALWAYS COME THROUGH, NO MATTER THE CIRCUM-STANCES. IN HIS OWN WAY, MY FIANCE IS AS RESOURCEFUL AS SUPERMAN!

GOOD WORK, LOIS...

...BUT OUR YOUNG MR. OLSEN STILL NEEDS CONVINCING!

LOIS! LOIS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

CLARK!

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE TROUBLE HERE--!

I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO, BABE... BUT EVERYTHING'S OKAY, NOW!

ME?! WHY WOULD ANYONE WORRY ABOUT ME?

YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

WELL, I PROBABLY LOOK A FRIGHT, BUT--!

MR. KENT-- CLARK-- HOW'D YOU ESCAPE ALL THE WEIRDNESS? ONCE WE GOT INSIDE THE NEWSTIME BUILDING,* WE COULDN'T GET OUT!

*IN ADVENTURES #493.

OH, THAT... WELL, I'M AFRAID I NEVER MADE IT INSIDE, JIM. ON THE WAY I TRIPPED AND SPRAINED MY ANKLE! YOU'D THINK I HAD TWO LEFT FEET!

ANYWAY, I HAD TO MAKE A STOP TO CLEAN UP AND GET IT WRAPPED. FROM WHAT I HEAR, I MISSED QUITE A MELEE!

I'LL SAY! WE WERE ATTACKED BY DEMONS! THIS SATANUS GUY -- BLAZE'S BROTHER, NO LESS! -- SHOWED UP TO HELP SUPERMAN!

THEN THE WHOLE BUILDING WAS ZAPPED INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION,* AND--

SLOW DOWN, SON... SAVE IT FOR THE LATE EDITION!

*IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S WORTH OF THE FOUR SUPER TITLES! (SEE WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER MISS AN ISSUE?)

IT MAY SOUND CRAZY, KENT, BUT OLSEN'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

IF YOU SAY SO, PERRY... SOMETHING CERTAINLY HAPPENED HERE.

A SPRAINED ANKLE! WHAT A SIMPLE PLOY... AND HE MADE IT SEEM SO BELIEVABLE! NO WONDER CLARK'S BEEN ABLE TO HIDE HIS DOUBLE IDENTITY ALL THESE YEARS!

IT WAS REALLY WEIRD, CLARK... EXCITING, YEAH... BUT THE KIND OF EXCITEMENT I COULD DO WITHOUT! YOU WERE LUCKY TO MISS IT!

YES... LUCKY. I WISH THOSE PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN AS LUCKY.

SUPERMAN DID HIS BEST, CLARK...

"...BUT EVEN *HE* CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE! NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE MORE THAN HE DID!"

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SAM... I PROMISE YOU, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW... YOU'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

TH-TH-THANKS, MR. THORNTON... I 'PRECIATE ALL YOUR CONCERN. ONLY WISH... I C-COULD REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE.

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A TERRIBLE *ORDEAL*, SAM-- YOUR MIND OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T WANT TO REMEMBER JUST NOW. DON'T TRY TO FORCE THE MEMORIES...

...IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. YOU WILL RECALL ONLY THAT WHICH *SATANUS* WISHES YOU TO--!

HOW IS HE, THORNTON?

AH, *KENT*! FOSWELL'S STILL A BIT *DAZED*, I'M AFRAID... AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE! NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH...

...MY EMPLOYEES ARE WELL COVERED UNDER NEWSTIME'S HEALTH PLAN. AND, AS PUBLISHER, I *PERSONALLY* AIM TO SEE THAT THEY GET THE FINEST CARE AVAILABLE.

I JUST THANK THE STARS THAT I'D INSTITUTED STAGGERED LUNCH HOURS, OR EVEN MORE OF MY STAFF WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THAT... WELL... *MADNESS*--

"--FROM THE WAY I'VE HEARD IT DESCRIBED! I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE BUILDING WHEN IT HAPPENED."

POOR FOSWELL... THE WAY HE LOOKS--! MAKES ME WISH I COULD TAKE BACK ALL THOSE ROTTEN THOUGHTS I HAD ABOUT HIM!

AFTER HE FIRED ME FROM THE *DAILY PLANET*, I WANTED HIM PUT THROUGH HELL... LOOKS LIKE I GOT MY WISH!

FUNNY, THOUGH, I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING HIM WITH THE OTHERS... EITHER IN THE BUILDING OR THAT OTHER DIMENSION. I WONDER WHAT ALL HAPPENED TO HIM?

WELL, IF EVERYTHING IS REALLY UNDER CONTROL, I GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED ANYMORE, EITHER!

THERE ARE OTHER PLACES I SHOULD BE! 'BYE, ALL!

THERE ARE OTHER PLACES ALL OF US SHOULD BE! COME ON, KIDS... LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE *PLANET*--

--WE HAVE A *STORY* TO GET OUT!

HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO LEX?

SUPER-GIRL! DOWN HERE!!

DOCTOR HAPPERSEN... I, UH, GUESS YOU'RE SURPRISED TO SEE ME BACK IN TOWN, HUH? WHAT'S UP?

MR. L IS ON THE LINE... AND HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!

LEX... HI! YOU'RE OKAY, I HOPE!

I'M FINE, LOVE. THE QUESTION IS, HOW ARE YOU? MY PEOPLE--

--WERE MONITORING THE SITUATION THERE IN METROPOLIS. THEY SAY THAT YOU DID QUITE WELL, ASSISTING THE POLICE AND QUELLING PANIC.

I'M GLAD OF THAT, OF COURSE...

...STILL, THE WAY YOU BOLTED FROM MY PLANE IN MIDFLIGHT,* WELL--!

I DON'T MIND A BIT OF IMPULSIVENESS, LOVE, BUT THAT STUNT BORDERED ON THE DAFT!

I-I KNOW. IT'S JUST THAT, WHEN I HEARD THAT SUPERMAN WAS IN TROUBLE, I... I GUESS I DID OVER-REACT, DIDN'T I?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO ALARM YOU, LEX. I AM SORRY...

*LAST ISSUE.

THERE, THERE, LOVE. NO REAL HARM DONE. I FORGIVE YOU.

BUT ABOUT THAT *VACATION* OF OURS YOU INTERRUPTED... I THINK WE BOTH NEED IT NOW MORE THAN EVER!

I'M AT MY HAWAIIAN COMPOUND-- LOVELY PLACE, BUT IT'S A POOR COPY OF PARADISE WITHOUT YOU.

COULD YOU FIND YOURSELF FREE TO FLY OUT HERE AND BRING HAPPINESS TO A LONELY MAN?

OH, LEX--! I'LL BE THERE ON WINGS OF LOVE!

♪ I'M IN LOVE WITH A WON-DER-FUL GUY... ♪

'BYE, DOCTOR. TAKE CARE!

INCREDIBLE! THE OLD MAN MAY HAVE A NEW BODY, BUT HE HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH... IF ANYTHING, HE'S GOTTEN *SLICKER!*

SOON, AT THE DAILY PLANET...

PERRY WHITE
EDITOR

"...ALERTED BY THE RINGING BELL, THE SURVIVORS MADE THEIR WAY FROM THE NEWSTIME BUILDING TO THE RUINS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH."

GOT IT, CHIEF!

GOT THAT, KENT?

GOOD. LET'S SEE... NEW PARAGRAPH...

I KNOW IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK FOR YOU, ALICE.

I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE IT HAPPENED, LOIS.

OW! I MUST'VE TWISTED MY ANKLE, TOO... PROBABLY RUNNING FROM THOSE DEMONS.

"EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS DIFFER, DUE TO THE DISTORTING OPTICAL EFFECTS OF THAT OTHER DIMENSION"... NO, TOO AWKWARD...

UH, PERRY? ABOUT THIS STORY ON THESE... DEMONS...

WELL, I STARTED READING IT AS IT CAME ACROSS MY MONITOR AT THE CITY DESK, AND THERE ARE SECTIONS I THINK WE OUGHT TO REPHRASE...

WHAT ABOUT IT, DARNELL?

...'SPECIALLY AFTER THAT VAMPIRE STORY WE RAN THE OTHER DAY.

I MEAN, WE DON'T WANT TO COME OFF LIKE A SUPERMARKET TABLOID.

I SEE YOUR POINT, BUT, DAMMIT, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

DO YOU THINK DARNELL CAN CONVINCE HIM?

PROBABLY. AS CITY EDITOR, HE'S NEVER BEEN SHY ABOUT PLAYING COPY DOCTOR. LET'S LEAVE HIM AND THE CHIEF TO THRASH IT OUT.

ALICE, JIMMY... WE NEED TO GET SOME AIR.

IF YOU EVER FEEL THE NEED TO TALK, ALICE, PLEASE CALL.

THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, JIM!

THANKS, GUYS! CATCH YA LATER!

SHORTLY...

...NO, REALLY, LOIS! AFTER BLAZE WAS BLOWN APART, I CAME TO-- MY WOUNDS HEALED AND MY COSTUME RESTORED--IN ANOTHER PLACE...

...A KIND OF *LIVING REALITY* WHICH CALLED ITSELF *KISMET.** I... I'M NOT CERTAIN HOW TO PUT THIS...

*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #494, STILL ON SALE.

...BUT KISMET KNEW ALL ABOUT ME... SHOWED ME THE CHOICES I HAD MADE, AND THE ONES I HADN'T... AND THE WAY THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

I'M *FINE*, LOIS, REALLY. AND AS FAR AS THE LIMP GOES, I HAVE CLAYTON MOORE TO THANK FOR THAT!

SOUNDS COSMIC... AND *SCARY!* DID YOU SEE... ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

MAYBE LATER.

DO YOU HAVE TO CHECK IN WITH MAGGIE SAWYER RIGHT NOW? MAYBE YOU SHOULD REST FIRST. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT STILL HURT? THAT'S AN AWFULLY CONVINCING LIMP...

CLAYTON MOORE? YOU MEAN... THE *LONE RANGER*?!

UH-HUH! WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO WATCH RERUNS OF THE *RANGER* EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL. HE WAS A BIG PART OF MY CHILDHOOD.

ANYWAY, WHEN I WAS COMING UP WITH THE EXCUSE FOR CLARK KENT'S NOT BEING AT NEWSTIME--

--I REMEMBERED THAT WHEN THE RANGER HAD TO FAKE A LIMP, HE'D PUT A *STONE* IN ONE SHOE!

OF COURSE! I REMEMBER THOSE EPISODES... WHEN HE'D DISGUISE HIMSELF AS THE OLD PROSPECTOR!

EXACTLY. THIS PEBBLE DIDN'T *HURT* ME, OF COURSE--BUT FEELING IT THERE REMINDED ME TO THROW OFF MY STRIDE ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE LIMP!

YOU'RE SO *CLEVER!* BRAINY AS WELL AS BRAWNY!

OH, SPEAKING OF BRAINY... DID I TELL YOU THAT I GOT A CALL FROM *KITTY FAULKNER*?

SHE'S BACK IN METROPOLIS... BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF OVERSEEING THE NEW *S.T.A.R. LABS* FACILITY! I'M SEEING HER TOMORROW.

WELL, BE SURE TO SAY "HI" FOR ME.

"HI" FROM SUPERMAN OR CLARK? OR BOTH?

BETTER MAKE IT JUST FROM CLARK.

MMM... BE BACK SOON!

I SHOULD HOPE SO--

"--YOU KNOW HOW I HATE TO DINE ALONE!"

THAT WOMAN IS AN ABSOLUTE *JEWEL*. ASKING HER TO MARRY ME WAS THE SMARTEST THING I EVER DID. IT'S GOOD HAVING SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE WITH.

I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY, NOT TELLING HER THAT BLAZE HAD TRANSFORMED SAM FOSWELL INTO THE *GARGOYLE* CREATURE THAT ATTACKED ME!*

BUT SAM APPARENTLY REGAINED HIS HUMANITY WITH NO ONE BECOMING THE WISER... AND THE MAN'S SUFFERED SO MUCH LATELY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM HAS APPARENTLY BEEN BLOTTED FROM HIS MEMORY, SO I SEE NO NEED TO FURTHER BURDEN HIM--

*LAST ISSUE.

"--BY REVEALING HIS SECRET FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD."

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE THAN THAT, MAGGIE. BLAZE WAS STOPPED AGAIN FROM GAINING A FOOTHOLD ON EARTH...

...THAT MUCH, AT LEAST, WE WON.

I SEE. AND WHAT ABOUT THAT HORNED CHARACTER... THE ONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE HER *BROTHER*?

SATANUS? I HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. HE'S HARDLY ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS, BUT HE DID HELP STOP BLAZE.

I HAVE TO ADMIT, HIS MOTIVES ARE A *PUZZLE* TO ME.

YEAH, WELL, THIS WHOLE INCIDENT MAKES *MY* HEAD HURT. OFFICIALLY, WE'RE CALLING IT A TERRORIST ATTACK BY SUPER*HUMAN* AGENTS...

...DESPITE THOSE ENCOUNTERS WE'VE HAD WITH SKYHOOK AND THE SILVER BANSHEE, I HAVE A HARD TIME ACCEPTING THESE SUPERNATURAL MENACES.

I DON'T BLAME YOU. THEY MAKE *ME* UNEASY, TOO.

I GET THE WILLIES JUST THINKING ABOUT THEM.

THEY DO?! NOW I AM WORRIED.

I HATE THAT THEY JUST *DISAPPEAR* ON US. STILL, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE HELL--NO PUN INTENDED--TRYING TO LOCK THEM UP!

YES... IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT HOME-GROWN FUGITIVES ARE AT LARGE. TOO *MANY* HAVE GOTTEN AWAY FROM ME RECENTLY...

...KILLGRAVE, HELLGRAMMITE, THE TOYMAN--!

AH, THAT REMINDS ME...

...I FINALLY GOT A REPORT IN FROM MY INQUIRY ON THE HELLGRAMMITE. SEEMS THAT THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE HAD A FILE ON HIM.

OH?!

ATTN: CAPT. SAWYER
S.C.U.

INTERESTING... ACCORDING TO THIS, HELLGRAMMITE WAS A GENIUS *ENTOMOLOGIST* WHO DISCOVERED SOME WAY OF MUTATING HIMSELF INTO THAT MONSTROUS CREATURE...

...AND GOT MIXED UP WITH SOME GOTHAM CRIMELORDS, UNTIL *THE BATMAN* MANAGED SOMEHOW TO CAPTURE HIM!*

THE BATMAN MUST'VE GOTTEN *LUCKY*. BUT THE STATE POLICE LOST WHAT HE'D WON... HELLGRAMMITE LATER ESCAPED FROM CUSTODY.

THAT JUST MAKES IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT HE BE FOUND, MAGGIE. IF WE CAN'T TRACK HIM DOWN... WHO *KNOWS* WHERE HE MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN?

*WITH HELP FROM THE CREEPER, IN THE CLASSIC BRAVE & BOLD #80.

WEST METROPOLIS INDUSTRIAL PARK, THE NEXT MORNING...

OH, MY-MY!

...LOOKING MIGHTY FINE, MR. SUTTON! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK... THAT NEW ACCELERATOR HOUSING IS SET TO SHIP IN TWO WEEKS!

YEAH? THAT'S GREAT, DOCTOR FAULKNER-- I KNOW YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUPPLIER MAKING SCHEDULE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS ON OUR END... MY MEN WILL HAVE THIS WING READY AND WAITING!

THAT'S ONE CLASSY LADY... PRETTY CUTE, TOO. SHE NEVER TALKS DOWN TO ANYONE. I WONDER IF SHE'D GO OUT WITH A GUY IN CONSTRUCTION?

MMM, THERE'S A BRAIN BEHIND THOSE GORGEOUS EYES. HE LOOKS GOOD JUST AS IS... AND I BET HE CLEANS UP REALLY WELL. I WONDER IF HE'D BE TOO INTIMIDATED TO GO OUT WITH--?

KITTY? EARTH TO KITTY!

OH, LOIS... HI! SORRY, YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE!

uh-huh. WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING... PREOCCUPIED. THERE'S SOME NICE SCENERY AROUND HERE! HOW ABOUT SHOWING ME AROUND?

BE GLAD TO. AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS NEW ATRIUM CONNECTS OUR EXISTING COMPUTER CENTER--

--WITH THE NEW S.T.A.R. LAB COMPLEX AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES... THROUGH HERE!

NICE LAYOUT... I ESPECIALLY LIKE ALL THE NATURAL SUNLIGHT!

THANKS... IT WAS MY SUGGESTION. AND UP AHEAD IS OUR NEW *META-HUMAN RESEARCH FACILITY*. WE ALREADY HAVE A RESIDENT *CASE STUDY*...

...THOUGH AN UNWILLING ONE!

THE *PARASITE*?! *UGH!* I HEARD THAT HE'D BEEN SAVED FROM THE RUINS OF THE OLD DOWNTOWN S.T.A.R. LAB, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS HERE!

HE *IS* A LITTLE CREEPY, BUT I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH HIM.* NO PRISON HAS EVER HELD HIM FOR LONG--

*IN STARMAN #13-14.

--AND WE'RE MUCH BETTER EQUIPPED TO STUDY HIM IN THIS NEW FACILITY.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK EAST, KITTY? I THOUGHT THINGS HAD BEEN GOING WELL FOR YOU IN ARIZONA.

WELL ENOUGH, I SUPPOSE. I MADE SOME GOOD FRIENDS... AND I *LOVED* THE SUNSHINE! BUT I MISSED SEEING THE SEASONS CHANGE.

SO WHEN THE S.T.A.R. BOARD OFFERED ME DIRECTORSHIP OF THIS NEW COMPLEX, I JUST COULDN'T TURN IT DOWN!

IT WAS A *VERY* GOOD OFFER... I'M IN COMPLETE CONTROL, ANSWERABLE ONLY TO THE BOARD. NO ONE ELSE IS LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER!

OR SO YOU THINK!

WELL, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK IN METROPOLIS!

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK... THOUGH I HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS WHENEVER I LOOK IN HERE. THIS *MESS* IS WHAT PURPORTS TO BE MY OFFICE!

A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE MAKES YOU FACE A WHOLE NEW SET OF CHALLENGES.

I'M SURE THAT YOU'RE UP TO IT. YOU'VE COME SUCH A LONG WAY--

--FROM THE BIO-ENERGY EXPERIMENT THAT FIRST TRANSFORMED YOU INTO *RAMPAGE!** THAT EXPERIENCE WOULD HAVE DRIVEN A LOT OF PEOPLE *CRAZY*--

--BUT YOU BOUNCED BACK FROM IT. I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED, AND SO WAS SUPERMAN!

*SUPERMAN # 7.

I'LL THINK OF THAT WHEN THE HASSLES START TO MOUNT.

YOU WANT TO KNOW ONE OF MY BIGGEST HEADACHES? *PUBLIC RELATIONS...*

...THE AVERAGE CITIZEN HAS THIS TOTALLY SCREWY IDEA OF WHAT S.T.A.R. IS ALL ABOUT!

I SWEAR, MY PREDECESSORS MUST HAVE HIRED *MIS*-INFORMATION EXPERTS. WE'LL BE *YEARS* MAKING UP FOR THEIR MISTAKES!

TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT...

"... MAYBE I CAN HELP SET THINGS STRAIGHT!"

LOIS? HI, KITTY FAULKNER HERE!

I WAS JUST READING YOUR FEATURE IN THE WEEKEND EDITION, AND I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

"JUST DOING YOUR JOB," HUH? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, MS. LANE--

--GOOD SCIENCE REPORTING IS *ALL TOO RARE!* THIS PIECE WAS WONDERFUL... EVEN THE *HEADLINE* WAS ACCURATE!

I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT HEADLINES ARE... SOMETIMES THEY'RE ALL THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE REMEMBER! I'VE SEEN TOO MANY THAT SAID JUST THE *OPPOSITE* OF WHAT THE ARTICLE WAS ABOUT!

TELL THOSE RESPONSIBLE THAT *THEY* SHOULD TAKE A BOW, TOO!

GOT TO RUN... SURE, *YOU* HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND, TOO!

ONCE AGAIN, THE *DAILY PLANET* CAME THROUGH FOR ME.

WHAT A PLEASURE TO DEAL WITH SUCH COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS AND THOROUGHLY GOOD PEOPLE!

AND SPEAKING OF PROFESSIONALS... DAVE SUTTON'S BEEN DOWNRIGHT *EAGER* TO TALK WITH ME DURING WORK BREAKS.

PERHAPS I SHOULD CASUALLY MENTION SOME OF MY FAVORITE RESTAURANTS, AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS--?

-?!- NOW THAT'S *ODD*...

...WHY ARE THE CORRIDOR LIGHTS OFF?

BECAUSE I DISCONNECTED THEM, DOCTOR FAULKNER!

I HAVE *NEED* OF YOUR LABORATORIES' RESOURCES... AND *YOU* ARE GOING TO HELP ME GET THEM!

EEYAAA!!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! I MOVE TO ARIZONA, AND I GET JUMPED BY THE PARASITE...

...I RETURN TO METROPOLIS, AND I GET ATTACKED BY SOMETHING OUT OF A '50S MONSTER MOVIE!

YOU CANNOT OUTRUN THE HELLGRAMMITE, DOCTOR!

NOW... WILL YOU DO AS I SAY? OR MUST I--?

GO SUCK EGGS!

KLANK!

THAT WAS MOST FOOLISH, DOCTOR!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE BY BARRICADING YOURSELF IN THERE! THIS DOOR SHALL SOON FALL--!

THOOM THOOM

HE'S NOT JUST BRAGGING... AND THAT DOOR IS SOLID STEEL, FOUR INCHES THICK!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO HOLD FOREVER, THOUGH, IF THIS IS THE LAB I THINK...

...YES, THANK GOD, IT IS! LET'S SEE NOW...

...WE SWITCH THE HIGH INTENSITY LAMPS ON... AND MY REGULATOR COLLAR OFF! I'LL NEED ONLY A FEW MOMENTS...

...MORE! AHH... TRANSFORMATION ...TRIGGERED! STILL SCARES ME SOMETIMES... BUT THIS TIME...

...I WELCOME IT!!

KR-OOM!!

WHA--? WHO--?

WHERE'S FAULKNER?!

YOU WANT TO KNOCK A DOOR DOWN?! YOU OVERGROWN INSECT--

--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO KNOCK A DOOR DOWN!

WHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND HER, CHITIN-HEAD!

YOU HAVE A NEW WORRY NOW--

--ME!!

BAHBOOM!

HOLEE--! WAS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE OR AN EXPLOSION?

DUNNO... SOUNDED LIKE A LITTLE OF *BOTH*! ALL I KNOW IS... BEFORE EITHER OF US SETS ONE FOOT IN THERE...

"... WE'D BETTER CALL FOR BACK-UP!"

ATTENTION, ALL QUEENSLAND PARK UNITS... CODE NINE... SEE SECURITY AT S.T.A.R. LABS...

FINE DINING AT A FINE PRICE

... ASSISTANCE REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE EMERGENCY SITUATION OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS ... EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION!

UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

NEITHER DO I!

WHU--? SUPERMAN!

TELL DISPATCH THAT I'M ON THE CASE!

YOU GOT IT!

A CODE NINE EMERGENCY AT S.T.A.R. COULD MEAN ANYTHING FROM A *NUCLEAR MELTDOWN* TO A BREAKDOWN OF *DIMENSIONAL INTERFACES!*

S.T.A.R.'S OWN SECURITY IS USUALLY PRETTY GOOD... BUT WITH THEIR NEW DIGS STILL PARTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, *ANYTHING* COULD HAPPEN.

FROM WHAT LOIS TOLD ME OF HER TOUR THERE THE OTHER DAY, THINGS WERE SHAPING UP NICELY UNDER KITTY FAULKNER'S MANAGEMENT.

I'D HATE FOR ANYTHING TO UPSET THAT. AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IN RECENT YEARS--BOTH TO KITTY AND TO S.T.A.R.--THEY DESERVE A FEW BREAKS.

HERE WE ARE... THE LAYOUT LOOKS EVERY BIT AS IMPRESSIVE AS LOIS DESCRIBED. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY AT FIRST GLANCE!

KTOOM!

BUT I DEFINITELY *DON'T* LIKE WHAT I *HEAR!*

SOUNDS LIKE THE PLACE IS BEING TORN APART FROM THE INSIDE!

LORD, I HOPE THE PARASITE HASN'T BROKEN LOOSE! IF HE HAS--!

KRATOOM

WHOA!

SOMETHING'S CERTAINLY OUT OF CONTROL DOWN THERE! WHATEVER IT IS, IT HAS TO BE STOPPED...

...OR ELSE S.T.A.R. WILL HAVE ANOTHER WRECKED BUILDING ON ITS HANDS!

OH, NO... DOWN AMID THE RUBBLE... IT'S KITTY! SHE'S BECOME--

--RAMPAGE!

EH?

SO, YOU'VE SKITTERED OUTSIDE --IS THAT IT?!

BRATAKT

COME BACK AND TAKE YOUR MEDICINE, YOU BUG-EYED--

--SUPERMAN?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?! NO-- TELL ME LATER!

FOR NOW, YOU CAN HELP ME FIND THAT @#*!! HELLGRAMMITE!

HELLGRAMMITE?! HE'S BEHIND ALL THIS DAMAGE?

WELL... I CAUSED SOME OF IT... TRYING TO SWAT HIM DOWN! BUT IT'S HIS FAULT!

HE TRIED TO TAKE ME-- I MEAN, KITTY-- CAPTIVE! HE WANTED TO GET HIS HANDS ON S.T.A.R. EQUIPMENT-- GOD KNOWS WHY.

I DUCKED INTO A LAB AND CHANGED FORM TO DISCOURAGE HIM, BUT NOW HE'S DISAPPEARED ON ME!

DON'T WORRY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SCOPE HIM OUT. WHERE DID YOU LAST SEE HIM?

BACK THIS WAY!

NINETY PERCENT OF ALL THE SCIENTISTS WHO'VE EVER LIVED ARE ALIVE TODAY--

--WHY DID I HAVE TO PICK THE ONE WHO HAD A GIANT AS A BODY-GUARD?

AND WHERE DID SHE COME FROM? I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWO DAYS CRAWLING THROUGH THIS DUCT-WORK... I SAW NO INDICATIONS OF--

WHAT--?!

SUPERMAN!

I GET THAT REACTION A LOT!

HERE'S YOUR *PROBLEM*, RAMPAGE--AND US WITHOUT A *BUG BOMB*! I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO.

YOU BROKE AWAY FROM ME LAST TIME, HELLGRAMMITE... I HOPE THE *BASE* OF YOUR TAIL IS STURDIER THAN THE *END*!

HEY-EY-EY! LET GO-OH-OH!

WHATEVER YOU SAY!

HERE HE *COMES*, RAMPAGE!

NO!!

ALL RIGHT! TWO DOWN AND BASES LOADED... HERE COMES THE *SWING*...

KERAK!

...YES!!

HE MAY BE A FOUL BALL, BUT TONIGHT--

"--HE'S GOING... GOING... HOLY COW, HE'S OUT OF THE BALLPARK!"

DON'T WORRY, HELLGRAMMITE, I WON'T LET YOU GET FAR!

HELLGRAMMITE?

UNCONSCIOUS? WELL, THAT WAS QUITE A *PUNCH*, AFTER ALL!

I WONDER HOW *THE BATMAN* MANAGED TO SUBDUE HIM? I'LL HAVE TO ASK BRUCE THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.

NICE CATCH! BRING HIM OVER HERE!

I *THOUGHT* YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME SORT OF CONTAIN-MENT VESSEL ON HAND!

JUST THINK OF IT AS A "*HELLGRAMMITE MOTEL*"! HE WON'T BE CHECKING OUT ANY-TIME SOON!

NOW THE PARASITE WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO KEEP HIM COMPANY.

HERE COMES SECURITY.

DO ME A FAVOR, *YOU* DO THE TALKING! AND KEEP RAMPAGE OUT OF IT, OKAY?

I HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT WAS ACTUALLY FUN IN A PERVERSE SORT OF WAY!

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST JOIN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND BE RAMPAGE FULL TIME!

NO, I'D MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH. RAMPAGE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO VENT FRUSTRATION--

--BUT I THINK I'D RATHER MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE FOR MY "LARGER HALF" ... FOR NOW.

THERE... THIS SHOULD MAKE ME A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE!

I NEVER HEARD SUCH A RUCKUS BEFORE!

BUT IT DIDN'T LAST LONG ONCE YOU SHOWED UP, SUPERMAN! I'M KINDA SORRY WE MISSED IT.

THERE WASN'T MUCH TO SEE. BESIDES, I DID GET A LITTLE HELP FROM ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE IN CONFINING HELLGRAMMITE.

;UUUNGH?!

WHAT? YOU MEAN, SOMEONE FROM RESEARCH WAS DOWN HERE DURING ALL THAT?

YES... YOUR DOCTOR FAULKNER. HERE SHE IS NOW!

DOC! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

FINE, THANKS. I HID IN A LAB WHEN HELLGRAMMITE SHOWED UP.

GOOD MOVE, KITTY! WHENEVER POSSIBLE, TELL THE TRUTH...

...OR AS MUCH OF IT AS YOU CAN!

THANKS AGAIN, SUPERMAN, FOR HELPING US DEAL WITH THIS TRESPASSER!

YOU'RE WELCOME, DOCTOR. IT WASN'T TOO HARD, ACTUALLY...

...AND WITH YOU IN CHARGE, I'M SURE THERE WON'T BE ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS IN KEEPING THESE RAMPAGES UNDER CONTROL!

NEXT ISSUE: FROM THE EDGE OF SPACE TO BENEATH THE EARTH, SUPERMAN RUNS THE...

GAUNTLET!

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 057 The Blaze-Satanus War

"Sibling Rivalry", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #493, released June, 1992
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Payment Due", first appeared in Action Comics issue #680, released June, 1992
Roger Stern (writer), Art Thibert (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Art Thibert (inker), Denis Rodier (inker)

"Sanctuary", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #15, released July, 1992
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Keith Giffen (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker), Keith Giffen (inker)

"Evil's Pawn", first appeared in Superman issue #71, released July, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (inker)

"Kismet: The Road Not Taken", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #494, released July, 1992
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Odds & ... Endings", first appeared in Action Comics issue #681, released July, 1992
Roger Stern (writer), Art Thibert (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Art Thibert (inker), Denis Rodier (inker)

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THE BLAZE/SATANUS WAR!™

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GRUMMETT & HAZLEWOOD

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ON ANOTHER RAMPAGE!